

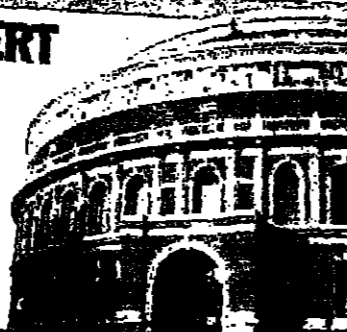
No. 65,549

TUESDAY APRIL 9 1996

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PAGE 30



Champagne candidate

Barbara Follett has upset Tory Stevenage

PAGE 13



Dr Thomas Stuttford

When exercise can damage your health

PAGE 12

ANCHORS AWEIGH!

Libby Purves praises the new royal dreamboat

PAGE 14



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The top 250 team managers

PAGES 26, 27

No to Blair-style 'one member, one vote'

Left defeats NUT plan for reform

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MILITANT teachers inflicted a devastating defeat on moderates trying to extend democracy in Britain's biggest teaching union yesterday when they threw out "one member, one vote" reforms limiting the powers of local branches and the national conference.

Leaders of the National Union of Teachers had proposed automatic ballots on conference decisions in a package reminiscent of Tony Blair's "new Labour" reforms. But every element was voted down in a humiliating rebuff for Doug McAvoy, the general secretary, who described it as a sad day for the NUT.

The proposed changes had been supported by almost 85 per cent of 39,000 members who voted in a union poll, but leftwingers at the conference in Cardiff said that the 19 per cent turnout was too low to be a reliable guide.

They went on to win the key vote to refer the ballots idea back to the union executive by 28,000 votes, and with the executive swinging further to the left this year, the scheme may now be dead.

Mr McAvoy said that the decision might cost the union members "because teachers would see that far-left groups were clinging to power. His fears were reinforced by Nigel de Gruchy, of the National Union of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, who said that the votes would help his union to overtake the NUT. The NUT has 175,000

members, compared with 300,000 in the Sixties; NAS/UNT membership has risen to 157,000.

Mr McAvoy insisted, however, that he would continue to press for the kind of union that would have resulted had the conference accepted his recommendations. "I find it difficult to understand what justification delegates have for rejecting the proposal that conference decisions should be put to members for endorsement," he said.

"Some of those who claim to represent their members know that they do not do so, but are determined anyway to keep in their hands the power to determine union policy."

Apart from rejecting Mr McAvoy's reforms, the conference maintained its reputation for militancy in a number of

fields. Delegates called for strikes in any schools where teachers were "victimised" as a result of the new school inspection system, which they said should be scrapped. They also said that "hit squads" for failing schools should be disbanded and demanded walk-outs at premises that are considered unsafe. Today, if time permits, the conference will vote on a new boycott of classroom tests.

In the debate on union democracy, Graham Smith from Newham, east London, said that the NUT had been hijacked by a minority. Most teachers had neither the time nor the inclination to attend "tedious" union meetings. "People get there to be greeted by raucous newspaper sellers. They get inside to be subjected to a long harangue by half a dozen sad individuals about the need to waste their own money on the Socialist Workers' Party." The proposed reforms, he said, were "our opportunity to start reclaiming this union for the overwhelming majority of members."

But Bill Goodswen of Kirklees said the reforms would herald "tick box" democracy that was an insult to trade union values, and Jane Coombs of east London, said: "I came to conference having been ratified by members in a ballot. Why do I need to be ratified again?"

Activists' strategy, page 2



Told you their left wing was dangerous

Head tells of school arson

A primary school headmistress told last night of a campaign of intimidation waged against her after she identified youths who broke into a teacher's car.

Judith Elderkin said six weeks of terror came to a head on Sunday night with an arson attack on Marlborough Road Infants' School in Salford, Greater Manchester. Mrs Elderkin, a member of the National Union of Teachers' executive, spoke about her ordeal as the union demanded new measures to improve school security. Doug McAvoy, the General Secretary, said the school shared many of the problems of access and a lack of perimeter fencing that concerned the union nationally.

The reign of terror began just days after Mrs Elderkin and two colleagues helped police to identify a number of youths who broke into a teacher's car and stole a radio. Almost 40 windows were broken in one weekend bout of vandalism. A few days later Mrs Elderkin found a group of youths on the school roof. When she ordered them down, they responded with a hail of stones.

Salford Education Authority posted a 24-hour guard on the school, at a cost of £1,800 a week. The guards themselves were taunted by local teenagers for "protecting grasses".

One was inside the building when fire broke out on Sunday.

Speaking at the NUT's conference, Mrs Elderkin said: "I came to the conference feeling fairly secure because the school was being guarded, but I did not imagine for a moment what would ensue. Schools should be a safe haven."



Judith Elderkin: attacked

Coventry striker Dion Dublin, right, comforts team-mate Dave Bust after an accidental collision in which he broke his leg so badly that it required three hours of surgery last night and could threaten his livelihood (Rob Hughes writes). The accident came at Old Trafford, Manchester United's ground, and drained a \$0,332 holiday crowd of the

Moment of horror silences fans

relish of Manchester United going for the championship, or the fear of Coventry City perhaps going down. Bust, 28, was stretching in search of the fifth goal of his career. He crashed against United's Irish international Denis Irwin, and instantly the whole

ground fell into a hush. The leg was at a grotesque angle, and it took nine minutes to swab the goalmouth clear of blood, after part of the bone had come through the flesh. Dublin, whose own career as a Manchester United player was ended by a badly broken

leg, was on hand as Coventry's captain to try to console Bust, along with Liam Naish, left, and the Manchester United player Brian McClair. "You hope never to see that in a young, clean-cut defender, you never want it to happen," commented Alex Ferguson.

the Manchester United manager. He was the only man willing to speak of the accident, a compound fracture. The 22 players fled away ashen-faced from a match that, if anyone still cared, was ultimately won by a single goal from Manchester United's Eric Cantona.

Match report, page 19

Plastic bullets fired at rioting loyalists

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

RIOT police opened fire with plastic bullets last night after loyalists in Belfast attacked RUC officers with bottles and petrol bombs.

In the most serious rioting in Northern Ireland since last summer's marching season, an elderly woman had a suspected heart attack as police clashed with up to 1,000 loyalists on the Ormeau Road in south Belfast. The loyalists threw empty beer bottles, metal bars and planks at the police and broke into a garage to try to set fire to the roof. The RUC later blamed outsiders for orchestrating the unrest.

The rioting began about 5pm after a tense stand-off between the marchers and the RUC that had continued all day. Loyalists were furious that the RUC had banned the Apprentice Boys from marching along the nationalist Lower Falls Road.

Police in armoured vehicles blocked off the road at first light to prevent the parade from passing through at 7.30am. This led to sporadic

skirmishes in which three police officers and two civilians were injured.

The violence increased when a loyalist band from Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, joined the protest late in the afternoon and staged an impromptu march down the Ormeau Road in support of the Apprentice Boys. As the band tried to force its way through the police blockade on the Ormeau Bridge, officers in riot gear were ordered to disperse the loyalists.

Shortly afterwards, another loyalist band tried to march through the police lines. Within minutes, masked loyalists ran out of side streets and threw petrol bombs at the police lines. Officers retaliated by firing scores of plastic bullets into the crowd.

Sinn Féin begrudgingly praised the RUC for rerouting the march. Pat McGeown, chairman of the Sinn Féin group on Belfast City Council, said it was insulting for loyalists to march through a nationalist area.

London shares fall feared

Shares in London are expected to fall sharply today after stocks and bonds plummeted in New York in delayed reaction to buoyant US employment figures published on Good Friday. Trading was temporarily halted to restore calm but the Dow Jones industrial average had fallen 138.73 points, or 2.44 per cent, by midday. Page 36

Liberia peace collapses

Fighting in Liberia between government troops and supporters of a deposed warlord was believed to be spreading and tens of thousands of people sought refuge in diplomatic compounds in Monrovia. Many thousands have fled the capital for the Ivory Coast. Page 9

Skier killed

A British woman died after falling 1000ft on to rocks while skiing off-piste in the French Alps. The 32-year-old from London, whose identity was not released, was skiing with her husband at 7,260 feet near Grave.

Mackay seeks curb on European court

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor is to make an unprecedented visit to Strasbourg next month to seek backing from other countries for curbs on the European Court of Human Rights.

The proposals for restricting the court's powers come after a series of embarrassing rulings, which has put Britain almost at the top of the league table for breaches of the European Convention on Human Rights. The court held recently that the Government was wrong to order a journalist to disclose his sources. In February the Home Secretary was held to have no right to specify when child killers should be released.

A document outlining Britain's position has been drawn up by the Foreign Office and issued to all 38 members of the Council of Europe, which have power to alter the court's procedures. Lord Mackay of Clashfern will put Britain's case for greater controls on the way the court's judges are selected and a strengthening of the principle that the court

should not interfere with "long-standing laws and practices" except where "manifestly contrary to the convention".

In particular, the Government wants to ensure that the court pays "full regard to the decisions by democratic legislatures and differing legal traditions".

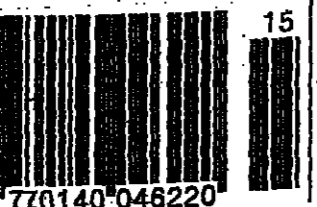
The initiative coincides with a move for curbs on the European Court of Justice at the European Union's inter-governmental conference and the reform of the human rights court. Lord Mackay and the Government will seek to reduce the influence of the reorganised court. The proposals include informal vetting of judges before their nomination.

There is concern that the quality of judgments may be weakened because of the rapidly expanding size of the Council of Europe.

A further proposal is for some kind of pre-trial procedure, as is common in English courts, to "hone" down the issues.

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TV & RADIO 34, 35
WEATHER 18
CROSSWORDS 18, 36

LETTERS 15
OBITUARIES 17
LIBBY PURVES 14

ARTS 10, 11
CHESS & BRIDGE 24
COURT & SOCIAL 16

BUSINESS 31-34, 36
BODY AND MIND 12
LAW 29

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Son of castle maid hopes DNA tests will show he is heir to wealthy estates

Welsh car worker wants to exhume laird he believes is his grandfather

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

A WELSH car worker plans to apply to the Scottish courts in the next few weeks to exhume the body of a distinguished aristocrat for DNA testing in an attempt to prove that he is the man's illegitimate grandson.

Ken Matthews, who lives near Swansea, wants to exhume the body of Andrew Mansel Talbot Fletcher, 10th Laird of Saltoun, who died in 1951 and is buried in the family vault in the churchyard at East Saltoun, near Haddington, Lothian, and who was the owner of valuable estates in Scotland and Epping.

Mr Matthews is convinced that he is the laird's grandson and a descendant of Andrew "The Patriot" Fletcher, who died in 1716 and occupies a special place in Scottish history as one of the strongest opponents of the Union with England.

Mr Matthews, the father of a teenage son, has spent years trying to unravel his family history. He was born in a workhouse in Wales in 1937 and nine months after his birth was given up for adoption, a fact he discovered only as an adult. Attempts to trace his parents were initially unfruitful as adoption papers which should have been lodged in the court in Neath were missing.

Eventually, spurred on by a mysterious illness which may prove to be hereditary, he discovered that his mother was Ivy Pinn, a maid at Margam Castle, near Swansea, which was owned by the Fletchers before being sold in the late 1930s. He traced two half-sisters who told him about his mother, who had died in 1988, before he had a chance to meet her. But they could give him little information



Ivy Pinn: she worked at Margam Castle in 1930s

about his father, who is recorded on his birth certificate as "unknown".

He then turned his attention to Margam Castle and managed to trace some of the servants who had worked with his mother. Penny Matthews, his wife, said: "We were expecting to hear that his father was the under-gardener or something like that. We were amazed when we were told it was the laird."

Several former members of staff were prepared to tell their stories on video. They said that Ivy Pinn had had a 12-year affair with John "Jack" Theodore Talbot Fletcher, 11th

Laird of Saltoun, and that he was Mr Matthews' father. Mr Matthews has been told that the laird and the chambermaid were relatively open about their relationship and were often seen together.

Mr Fletcher's marriage to Nora Gabbett-Mullenhan in 1933 was dissolved after four years, within days of Ivy giving birth to her son. The couple had no children. Ivy was sent away and all links with the castle were cut.

In August 1994, Mr Matthews and his wife visited the 4,000-acre Copped Hall estate in Essex where Mr Fletcher was living, aged 90. According to Mrs Matthews, Mr Fletcher had been friendly until they mentioned the name of Ivy Pinn. Then he clammed up and they were asked to leave.

A request for a blood sample from Mr Fletcher for DNA testing was met with a "curt refusal" from his solicitors, according to Mrs Matthews. In April last year Mr Fletcher died and was cremated. His estate passed to his nephew, Andrew Fletcher.

Mrs Matthews insists her husband is not motivated solely by money, although the Fletcher estate is said to be worth millions. Jack Fletcher had inherited money from his spinster great-aunt, Emily Talbot, one of the richest women of her day, whose family gave its name to Port Talbot.

Mr Matthews suffers from fainting fits and is anxious to discover whether the condition is hereditary. Mrs Matthews said: "This is a very frustrating time. Ken needs to find out what is wrong with him and what causes the fainting. The only way he can do this is by tracing his family, but we've been blocked at every turn."

The Matthews have the backing of their MP, Don Anderson, and are intent on pursuing their claim through the Scottish courts. A firm of Scottish solicitors has been appointed and Mrs Matthews says an application for an order to exhume the body of Andrew Fletcher will be made soon.



Ken Matthews at Margam Castle. His wife insists that he is not motivated solely by the Fletchers' wealth

Such applications, although rare in Scotland, are not unprecedented. An application is made through the relevant Sheriff Court and the Sheriff decides whether or not to grant the order.

If Mr Matthews can establish a link with the Fletchers, he will be able to claim Scottish ancestry of a high distinction. Andrew "The Patriot" Fletcher was the eldest son of a prosperous laird, Sir Robert Fletcher of Saltoun,

and inherited the title at the age of 12.

His mother, Katherine Bruce, claimed descent from the grandfather of Robert the Bruce. In 1955 a plaque was erected to him by the Saltire Society at East Saltoun church. Every September the society organises a meeting at the church to honour his memory.

Mr Matthews' plans to pursue his claim will be resisted strongly by the Fletcher family. William Barr, of the Cambridge solicitors Mills & Reeve, said: "Asking to exhume other people's relatives is to put it mildly, in extremely bad taste. Mr Matthews' claims are completely without legal foundation and any attempt at exhumation will be very strongly resisted."



Jack Fletcher and his great-aunt, Emily Talbot, one of the richest women of the late Victorian era

Twins in canal had given up careers

By STEWART TENDLER

IDENTICAL twins killed and dumped in a London canal abandoned promising careers and a middle-class home to become alcoholic beggars, police said yesterday.

Anthony Langford, 38, once trained as a solicitor and Christopher worked as a landscape gardener for a council near their home at Bromham, Bedfordshire. But the red-headed boys, sons of a school-teacher, became alcoholics before they were 20 and died with a reputation as drunken fighters and beggars.

When sober they were quiet and intelligent, drunk they were a different story. One voluntary worker said yesterday: "They were fiery haired and fiery natured. When they got drunk all the unhappiness came out."

Their bodies were found 50 yards apart in a stretch of the Regent's Canal in Islington, north London, close to public gardens where they sometimes slept. Christopher's body was found on March 26. He had head injuries which at first were thought to have been caused by a boat's propeller. Police could not identify him.

Anthony's body, wrapped in a blue blanket, was found last week. He had been beaten around the head. A policeman recognised him and the two bodies were later linked.

Police believe they had both been in the water for some weeks. They probably died at about the same time, possibly close to their birthday on March 12. In the next few days police will drain the canal where the bodies were found.

Detectives believe clues to the deaths could lie among other down and outs. The two men may have died in a fight with other alcoholics or they may have been involved in buying small amounts of amphetamines, run up debts and fought over the money.

Last night their family remained silent at the three-bedroom family home. The twins also had an older sister and brother. Their mother left when they were quite young and their father remarried. The twins kept in touch with birthday cards and messages but never returned to the family home in Bromham.

Academic claims Shakespeare was closet Catholic

By ALAN HAMILTON

A PLAY long seen as one of Shakespeare's lighter romantic comedies is in truth a daringly subversive attack on Elizabeth I's persecution of Roman Catholics, according to an Oxford academic.

Love's Labour's Lost has puzzled scholars, convinced there must be more to it than a daff story of French courtiers who take an oath of celibacy, only to find themselves challenged by a group of women.

Now Margarita Stocker, a fellow of St Hilda's College and a lecturer in English literature, claims to have cracked the code and to have exposed the playwright traditionally seen as head of public relations for the Protestant Tudor dynasty as a campaigner for minority Catholic rights.

Dr Stocker, 40, found her first clue in Shakespeare's naming of his daughters Susanna and Judith. "The names are taken from the Apocrypha, books of the Bible denounced as bogus by the Protestant establishment of the time. They demonstrate the playwright's determination not to

bow to the authorities." Ten years after Judith was born, Shakespeare wrote *Love's Labour's Lost*.

"The play's central figure of the princess is cunningly imbued with many of the characteristics of the biblical Judith, regarded by Catholics as their heroine. Judith's biblical enemy Holofernes also appears in the play, as a repellent schoolmaster of the same name."

According to Dr Stocker, the play also contains cryptic references to contemporary political events. The theme of sexual intrigue at the King of Navarre's court is a satire on Henry IV of France's cynical conversion to Catholicism in order to gain the throne.

Dr Stocker, whose conclusions appear in the new edition of the *Shakespeare Yearbook*, said: "*Love's Labour's Lost* is Shakespeare's most enigmatic play but, when set in historic context, its meaning becomes startlingly clear. The play is shot through with clever anti-Protestant gibes." Shakespeare clung to his Catholic faith despite the dangers,

Stocker: reinterpreted *Love's Labour's Lost*

she says. "Writing *Love's Labour's Lost* was terrifyingly daring. It gives us a new view of our most famous playwright as a subversive rather than an establishment toady." Anne Barton, professor of English at Cambridge, said Dr Stocker's theory "sounds like rubbish to me. I thought we had got away from using *Love's Labour's Lost* as a secret play containing all kinds of hidden messages. Shakespeare's father probably died a Catholic though he had done everything to present himself as a conforming Protestant, but there is no proof whatever about Shakespeare himself."

"*Love's Labour's Lost* is a wonderfully Elizabethan play, full of pyrotechnics and wordplay, that has no need of elaborate theories."

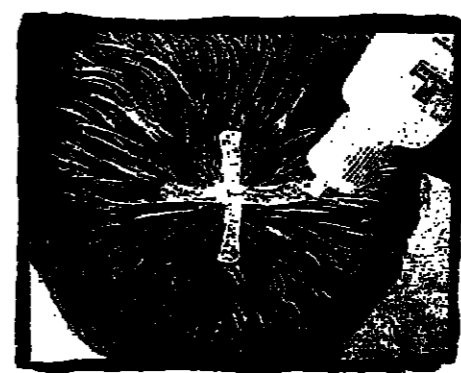
Ramsden's serves up fish and chip record

THE world record for sales of fish and chips was broken when more than 12,100 portions were served at Harry Ramsden's in Melbourne on Good Friday. There was a queue of up to half a mile for what Egon Ronay has described as Britain's "most distinctive contribution to world cuisine".

The first portions were served at 1.45am and by closing time about two tonnes of haddock, imported from Britain, had been fried. The previous record, of 11,900 portions, was set in 1992 at Harry Ramsden's in Glasgow, according to the *Guinness Book of Records*.

Harry Ramsden opened his first chip shop in 1929 in Guiseley, West Yorkshire. It became famous for hosting a fish-and-chip eating marathon in 1992.

The Melbourne branch opened last year. There are branches in Hong Kong and Dublin and plans to open in Jeddah, Singapore and Spain. The publicly owned company had pre-tax profits of nearly £1 million last year.



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Princess's private face goes on show

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A STUNNING portrait of the Princess of Wales went on public show for the first time yesterday, two years after its creation. Shaded by melancholy, it involved more than 50 hours of sittings during her unhappy summer of 1994.

The near life-size painting, which shows a thoughtful Princess in a green Catherine Walker taffeta skirt and a billowing white chiffon blouse by Tomasz Starzewski, has been temporarily shipped to a Manhattan exhibition from Kensington Palace.

The subject is said to be pleased by the outcome, which shows her with head tilted, gazing sideways. Her sapphire engagement ring is unavoidable. In the background, a faint line suggests a

door that could be opened. The painter, the American artist Nelson Shanks, disclosed that the Princess was an occasionally restive sitter who had "the most unforgettable eyes I have ever seen". She talked to him of her personal troubles, as well as music. She "hated disco music and loved classical".

Sittings were held in a studio on Tite Street, Chelsea, during the same period that Mr Shanks was also painting Baroness Thatcher, who "posed like a statue for three hours at a time". When Mr Shanks's infant daughter Annalisa started to cry one morning, Lady Thatcher picked her up and recited *Baa Baa Black Sheep* in a statesmanlike manner. The little



The princess sat in 1994

girl was quelled instantly. The summer of 1994 also saw a new peak of press speculation about the Princess's personal life, including her relationship with James Hewitt. The portrait is part of an exhibition at the Hirsch &

Adler gallery entitled Yanks Paint Brits. Other paintings include George III by Benjamin West and John Lennon by Andy Warhol.

A Londoner defended his reputation yesterday after he was forced to resign from the Queen's Scottish bodyguard, the Royal Company of Archers, for letting Duns Castle to an American TV company to represent Balmoral in a film about the Hewitt affair. Alexander Hay said: "The film is not about the Queen - it is about Princess Diana, on a subject she has admitted is true."

Lord Palmer, a member of the biscuit dynasty, was also forced to resign for letting Manderston House, also in the Borders, represent Kensington Palace and Highgrove.

Heavyweight tenants sought for rooms in Hampton Court



Henry VIII: tenants may live where he once loved

By ALAN HAMILTON

HENRY VIII's majestic residence by the Thames at Hampton Court, the largest and grandest royal palace in Britain, could soon be taking in tenants.

The Historic Royal Palaces Agency, which has adopted a far more commercially aggressive approach since taking over the running of the palace from the Department of the Environment five years ago, is considering turning up to 60 of Hampton Court's 1,500 rooms into private residential apartments and letting them on the open market.

Plans to turn some of the

hundreds of empty rooms into a discreet hotel have been quietly dropped as inappropriate. But two apartments, including the former quarters of the Mistress of the Puddings near the Tudor kitchens, have already been converted into short-let holiday flats and more may be made available. But there will be no freeholds: as it is a royal palace, no part of Hampton Court can be sold.

More space is becoming available as grace-and-favour residences, of which Hampton Court had 27, gradually become vacant. Only the grace-and-favour residents, all elderly, remain there.

Robin Evans, the agency's di-

rector at Hampton Court, said: "The worst thing you can do with a historic building is to leave it empty, when it will begin to deteriorate quickly. Almost all the historic parts likely to be of interest to visitors are now open to the public but we are still left with hundreds of unused rooms."

Any plan to turn part of Britain's biggest palace into housing would have to be approached with care, Mr Evans acknowledged: there would have to be a suitable mix of holiday flats and permanent accommodation and it was vital that any scheme did not affect the historic atmosphere of the palace as a whole. Potential

tenants would be screened for suitability.

Ten years after the disastrous fire that destroyed the Wren apartments built for William III, Hampton Court hardly knows itself. The Wren wing has been meticulously restored and its original contents and furnishings recovered from obscure corners of the royal estate for the first time in centuries. Queen Caroline's apartments have been opened; William III's huge Privy Garden has been reconstructed and the Tudor kitchens are on public view.

The last is the least surprising as David Beeton, chief executive

of the Historic Royal Palaces Agency — which also runs the Tower of London, Kensington Palace state apartments, the Whitehall Banqueting House and Kew Palace — is a direct descendant of the doyen of Victorian cookery writers.

Mr Beeton's unashamedly commercial approach is not universal: admired or emulated in the heritage business, there are, for example, no period-costumed guides or historic tableaux on the Buckingham Palace tour. He remains unrepentant.

"Since we took over from the civil servants, who at best were intelligent amateurs, we have

increased the turnover of the historic palaces from £15 million to £40 million, and reduced their cost to the taxpayer by two thirds. We have to make money from other activities, like catering, functions, events — and now perhaps even property."

The 5,000 visitors to the King's Apartments yesterday could view videos of the Easter Monday fire of 1986 and an exhibition explaining how the £11 million restoration was completed. Tourists are encouraged to take a second look at the seemingly immaculate throne canopy, where they can see splatters of molten lead that dripped there from roofing.

Heart attack blamed for collapse

Man dies trying to save daughter from attackers

By JOANNA BAILE

A MAN aged 60 who collapsed as he tried to rescue his teenage daughter from a roadside brawl died from a heart attack, police said yesterday.

Helen Burge, 17, paid tribute to her father John, who came to the aid of her and a friend when they were attacked outside a pub near their home in Oxford.

Mr Burge, who had a heart bypass operation six years ago, ran to the pub and appealed to the young men and women to stop kicking and punching his daughter. He then collapsed and his last words before lapsing into unconsciousness were for his daughter: "You shouldn't have been out so late."

Police called to the disturbance, just before midnight on Easter Day, tried to revive Mr Burge but he died soon after arriving at John Radcliffe Hospital, where he worked as a laboratory technician.

Miss Burge sobbed yesterday as she spoke of her father.

who was also a night porter at St Peter's College, Oxford. "He saved me," she said. "If he had not been there they would have killed me." She had stitches in her lips after the attack and also suffered severe bruising to her head and body.

Miss Burge described the incident: "My friend Joanna and I were out for a walk. We had eaten too much chocolate and we were just going round the block. We were coming back and we heard a knock on the pub window, then two girls came out and said, 'What are you two looking at?', but we hadn't been looking at them."

"We tried to walk away but they pounced on us and dragged my friend to the ground, kicked her in the head and pulled her hair. They hit me and kicked me and kept trying to push me to the ground."

"First of all it was just the two girls, but then a gang of blokes started on us. A cyclist

came past and tried to stop them punching me in the face."

Her friend, Joanna Taylor, 18, escaped and ran to Miss Burge's home for help. "She told my dad what was happening. I heard him shouting at them to get off but they continued to punch and kick me. Then he collapsed. He was a lovely man and we can't believe he has gone."

Mr Burge had suffered from a heart condition but made a good recovery after bypass surgery and was said by his family to be "fit and well". His Hungarian-born wife, Teresia, was yesterday comforting Helen and her sister Sarah, 14.

Thames Valley Police are not treating the death as murder. A post-mortem examination found that Mr Burge died of a heart attack brought on by stress.

Superintendent Cressida Dick said: "Mr Burge appeared to have received no assault injuries that would have contributed to his death. But she added: "He died, directly or indirectly, as a result of this incident. Clearly that has to be treated as a suspicious death. We will be sending a report to the Crown Prosecution Service."

Police are trying to trace about 20 people who are thought to have witnessed the brawl. Nigel Rich, landlord of the Fox and Hounds in Abingdon Road, Oxford, said: "There was a gang in here who left at about 11.45pm. They had done nothing wrong and they all left quite happily."

Detective Inspector David McCorkell said: "We are hoping to arrest someone shortly."



Helen Burge and her father John, who had a heart bypass operation six years ago



Lee Evans in action: "When I miss a chance of ticking a bird I have not seen before, it is soul-destroying"

Bird man drives 90,000 miles a year in search of rarities

By MICHAEL HORNSEY
COUNTRYSIDE
CORRESPONDENT

WHILE others went on holiday over the Easter weekend, Lee Evans continued doing what he does almost every other day of the year: tirelessly crossing the country in pursuit of unusual birds.

The 34-year-old former panel designer at Vauxhall Motors is recognised by common consent as Britain's most dedicated "twit", a man so obsessed with spotting avian rarities that even fellow addicts think him a bit over the top. "When other twits say you are bonkers, you know you really are," he says.

"Birding has destroyed any hope of normal social or family life. My marriage went down the pan."

Most days Mr Evans is on

the road in his Vauxhall Cavalier soon after 7am, armed with a lunch box and expensive German-made binoculars and telescopes. From his home at Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, chosen for its proximity to the M25, he reckons to cover up to 90,000 miles a year.

In 1987 he was clocked by a police helicopter doing 142mph near Aviemore in a race to keep a dawn rendezvous with a rare flock of capercaillie. Initially banned from driving for ten years, he persuaded the authorities to reduce the penalty to 18 months.

He calls himself a "birder" rather than a twit, a term he reserves for weekend amateurs. The purpose of his existence is to add new birds to his "life list", the total number of different species he

has seen in the British Isles. "There are 225 different birds which breed in Britain or are regular winter or summer visitors," he says. "About 350 other species turn up from time to time. Some have been seen only a handful of times in the past 200 years."

Mr Evans runs the UK 400 Club, whose 950 members are the crème de la crème of the bird-spotting world. Within this elite is a select group of 455 who have "ticked" 400 or more different species. Mr Evans is tenth, with a score of 488, a remarkable tally given his relative youth. The leader, Ron Johns, who started birding in the 1950s, has 503.

"At this level it becomes harder and harder to find new birds," Mr Evans says. "I add to my list about once every 18 months. When I miss a chance of ticking a bird I have

not seen before, it is soul-destroying. I go into a suicidal depression for several days."

Failing to see a bird is known as a "dip". One week last month Mr Evans had a disastrous run of them. He missed a Pacific golden plover in Weymouth, a ring-necked duck in Sussex, a Bonaparte's gull in Plymouth, a gull in Penzance, a pine bunting in Sheffield, an American woodcock in Lincoln and a black-throated thrush in Norfolk.

He makes a living by writing books on ornithology and publishing a bi-monthly magazine, *Rare Birds*, for which members of the UK 400 Club pay £15 a year. His greatest wish is to see a common night hawk. "The last three times it appeared I missed it. It was a nightmare."

PR chief resigns after row at Law Society

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ANOTHER senior official is to leave the Law Society, less than a year into the leadership of Martin Mears, the president elected on a reformist ticket.

The resignation of Sue Stapley, head of the society's public relations since 1989, was announced last Tuesday, just weeks after that of her immediate boss, Andrew Lockley, who had been with the society for 14 years. Her departure came after a well-publicised disagreement with Mr Mears. The society's staff of 700 say that they find it difficult under the new regime ushered in by Mr Mears and his deputy, Robert Sayer, last summer.

Ms Stapley will be the third senior staff member to leave this year. John Hayes, the society's chief executive, leaves next month after serving the society for ten years. Mr Mears has not concealed his view that he would rather Mr Stapley were to leave.

Henry Hodge, a Law Society council member who opposed Mr Mears's election, said: "Their relationship has been extremely fraught. She gave Mr Mears a lot of help in the early stages and the relationship apparently broke down. She has been a very able PR for the society and will be greatly missed by a lot of people."

Ms Stapley, 49, who is taking up a directorship with the communications consultancy Fishburn Hedges on June 17, was publicly criticised by Mr Mears at a recent meeting of the Law Society council. He questioned her motives for circulating a Sunday newspaper expose of his private life with the other press cuttings she sent out about the Law Society as part of her job.

The dispute was further fanned when Mr Lockley gave the press a copy of Ms Stapley's response to Mr Mears's allegations. The issue blew up into a full-scale council debate in the private half of proceedings that day and Mr Mears himself came under fire for his criticisms of Ms Stapley.

In her post as head of public relations she was responsible for various initiatives, including the society's Make a Will Week, National Law Week and the Save Legal Aid campaigns. John Hayes, the outgoing chief executive, said: "Sue Stapley's energy and wisdom have been of immense benefit to the society and the profession. Her infectious enthusiasm has changed the Law Society for the good. All of us wish her the very best for the future."

Ms Stapley said that she had "enjoyed her time at the Law Society immensely" but that it was now time to move on. She hoped to add to the strengths of Fishburn Hedges in campaigning, public affairs and public relations for a variety of clients, from big companies to law and accountancy firms and voluntary sector bodies.

Law, page 29

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Cervical screening test needs further refinement

By JEREMY LAURANCE

THE NHS cervical screening programme is saving up to 4,000 women from cancer every year but fails to detect it in more than 2,000, according to a study.

An analysis of women screened in 1992 shows that the programme prevented 43 per cent of potential cases of cervical cancer. However, it was also found that one in five cases of early-stage pre-cancer was missed by the test.

The report, published in the *British Journal of Cancer* today, says that, despite adequate screening, some women will still develop cervical cancer. Scientists believe that additions to the screening test will be necessary to prevent these cancers.

Researchers from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund compared the screening histories of 348 women with invasive cancer with 677 healthy women in 24 health authorities. Based on the results, they estimated that the

scheme prevented between 1,100 and 3,900 cases of invasive cervical cancer in this country in 1992. Dr Peter Sasieni, research scientist at the organisation's maths, statistics and epidemiology department, said the number of cancers prevented would have increased since 1992. "The basic screening programme is working well and mortality is falling more rapidly than ever before. We estimate that if it hadn't been for screening, the amount of

cervical cancer in 1992 would have been 75 per cent higher."

There are more than 3,500 new cases of cervical cancer each year in women under the age of 70 and the findings suggest that, with extended coverage and tighter follow-up, the current screening programme could prevent a further 1,250 of these.

However, Dr Sasieni said there was a limit to the sensitivity of the test. "With the present approach we cannot say to women that they will not get cervical cancer if they attend for screening regularly. As much as 20 per cent of high-grade lesions may be missed by the test. It is not perfect."

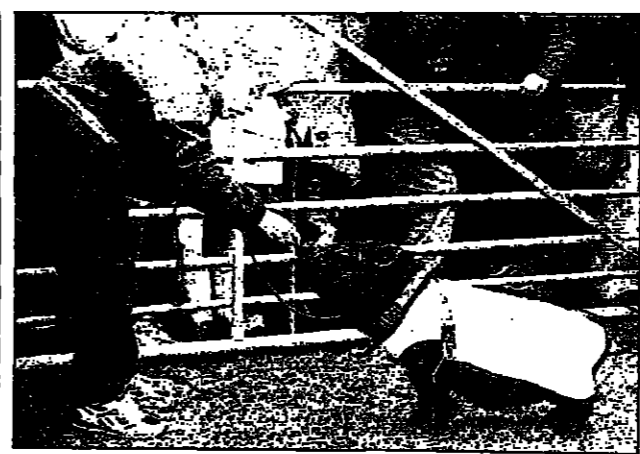
To improve detection rates, Dr Sasieni said that cells collected during screening could be tested for human papilloma virus, the organism that causes genital warts which is also linked with cervical cancer. A test for the virus is being developed but it needs refinement to avoid too many women being recalled for further investigation.

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Showtime over, Roger accepts the crowd's plaudits

Pigs provide music at Abigail's party

BRITAIN'S first beauty show for domestic pigs was won by Abigail, a three-year-old sow owned by Sheila Franklin, who keeps 16 pet pigs at her cattery in Capenhurst, Cheshire. Thirty beasts competed for the honour at Liverpool University's Leahurst Veterinary School in Neston.

Among the attractions at the show were Charlie and Roger, a pair of Vietnamese

pot-bellied pigs from Shildon, Co Durham, who won the novelty section after blowing bugles, racing through tunnels and sitting on command.

Their owner, Heather Powles, 42, said: "This is the biggest audience they have had and I had no idea if they would freeze, but they've been amazing. They are clean and intelligent and more responsive than a dog to train."

Funerals go with a swing as deceased do it their way

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

POP songs and theme tunes are increasingly supplementing hymns at funerals, often as a last request of the deceased. The trend is well established in churches as well as crematoriums, where one of the top ten tunes is *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*.

Other family favourites range from Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You* to the theme from the Australian soap opera *Home and Away*.

Many clergy feel mourners are

helped if the music has a special personal meaning. A survey in one local newspaper showed that almost a third of funeral services now include a pop tune, up from only 2 per cent ten years ago.

Most of the pop songs are included in services for people who die under the age of 50, but the trend is growing at the funerals of older people. A recording of Louis Armstrong's *Wonderful World* was played at the cremation of an 84-year-old woman.

Church organ music is not immune. Ron Bayfield, church organist in Worthing, Sussex, and former

editor of the *Organ Club Journal*, said: "I recently played at a funeral of a lady who had been a cinema pianist in the silent movie days. I played her out with the Charleston. Her relatives said afterwards how much they appreciated it. Another lady requested a waltz, the *Tales of the Vienna Woods*, for her mother. At one funeral, a girl who had been in showbusiness had a recording of Terry Jacks's *Seasons in the Sun*."

Britain's most regular funeral requests include Frank Sinatra's *My Way*, Barbara Streisand's *Memories*, John Lennon's *Imagine*, Bette

Midler's *Wind Beneath My Wings*, and football team anthems, along with more classical sounds such as Mario Lanza's *I'll Walk With God*, the largo from Dvorak's *New World Symphony* — the theme from the Hovis bread commercial — Bach's *Air on a G-String* and Elgar's *Nimrod*.

Paul Stubbs of the Federation of British Crematorium Authorities said: "We have no policy or guidelines on music. It is all down to the individual moral code of the mourners and whether the granting of a request is likely to cause offence."

Canon John Wikeley, team rector of West Derby, Liverpool, said: "Some of the songs requested are lovely. If music is played that has special meaning for the family, that can only be a good thing."

Maureen Barr, who runs Perry Barr Crematorium in Birmingham, said: "The service is the last shot we have of saying goodbye to our loved ones and we all have our own individual ways of doing that. I would have to seek advice if the lyrics were particularly explicit."

Leading article, page 15



the

**PR chief
resigns
after row
at Law
Society**



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their way



Dushyant Patel has been on the Côte d'Azur for seven years; Dorothy Chamaide for 60. The generations rarely meet socially, but when they do friction is almost inevitable. Photographs: Martin Beddall

Arriviste expats threaten to knock old guard for six

DUSHYANT PATEL, accomplished all-rounder with the Cabrice Cricket Club, is one of the many British expatriates on the Côte d'Azur without a bad word to say about his fellow exiles — until pushed ever so slightly.

Practising a few polished pre-season strokes in his back garden beneath the looming mass of the Col de Vence, Mr Patel knocks the old guard beyond the boundary and into the dustbin of history: "They came here to see out the twilight of their years, we younger people came to work and make new lives for ourselves."

Mr Patel, a property developer who left Virginia Water in stockbroker-belt Surrey for the South of France seven years ago, knows he has been cast in the role of "awful newcomer" by the old guard. He does not give a fig. The factions rarely meet socially, but

In the last of a series of reports from the South of France, Bill Frost discovers a growing rift between the Britons who went there to retire and the newcomers who are trying to earn a living

when they do friction is almost inevitable.

"There has even been trouble at the cricket club between the two camps," he says. "The row started last season over my suggestion that we should register the club properly, as French law requires — a modest proposal, I thought."

However, the idea drove some of the older members quite mad with rage, he says. "They refused to pay their subscriptions and some resigned altogether — quite unheard of and a serious distraction from the main business of playing cricket. The problem is

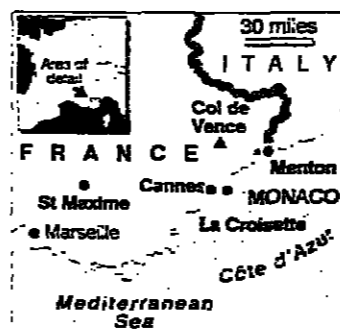
they are little Englanders who came here thinking they could do exactly what they liked and pay no attention to the law or customs of their new country. But at least the row has had the effect of getting rid of the troublemakers," he adds with a wolfish grin.

Strolling back across his patio as darkness falls on the manicured lawn, Mr Patel, 41, observes that the "elderly" Britons on the Côte d'Azur seem to get "awfully charged up" about matters of little importance. He shakes his head more in sadness than in anger when he mentions the latest and

most acrimonious upheaval to divide old and new British money from St Maxime to Menton: the Sunny Bank Anglo-American Hospital in Cannes. The hospital, which is funded by charitable donations, has been ministering to distressed expat gentilefolk in the South of France for a century. However, Mr Patel and others of like mind and similar age suggest that the place is no longer viable as a hospital and should instead be run as a retirement home.

"They cast me in the role of villain because I say we should stop carrying out operations there and save what we can. The Cannes site must be worth five million francs [about £645,000]. I see nothing wrong with the idea whatsoever. Yet passions have been roused between the generations to an astonishing level."

Down on the coast at Cannes, in



a palatial apartment behind La Croisette, the very mention of Mr Patel's name causes Dorothy Chamaide, MBE, to grip her glittering cutlery a little more tightly. One gets the impression that the lavish lunch has been spoiled and the champagne flute has been filled with vinegar. "To turn Sunny Bank into some sort of

retirement home is quite the most odious suggestion that I have ever heard," says Mrs Chamaide, who has been on the Riviera for 60 years. "No, I won't tell you my age — a gentleman would not have asked."

Putting down her knife and fork and leaving her lunch unfinished, she says sadly: "I admit there is less money about and people are less generous. But the hospital must stay. It is a great comfort to those in the community who need free treatment because their savings have dwindled. It is also a great comfort to be surrounded by doctors and nurses who speak English if you are English yourself, elderly and unwell."

Mrs Chamaide, whose walls are decorated with original Picasso sketches and prints — "personal gifts, we knew each other well,

such an exciting man" — is a formidable opponent. "I saw off the Vichy French, Mussolini's army and then the Nazis when they took over down here," she says, with the light of battle shining in her eyes.

"These young ones, these newcomers, don't do anything but criticise the older generation and all we stand for. They haven't got the slightest desire to help, even though they could. They just make insensitive suggestions which cause a lot of anger and anxiety. In fact, they simply couldn't care less."

"Sunny Bank is one fight we intend to win, though. As for those who want to close the hospital or turn it into some sort of expensive rest home, let them hop on a plane and go somewhere far away. They certainly don't belong on the Côte d'Azur."

Viscount team bids farewell to pioneer of postwar skies

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the last three Vickers Viscount airliners in regular passenger service is being prepared for a final nostalgic trip from Heathrow, where the first of its type began commercial service more than 40 years ago.

The Viscount is regarded by many as the greatest British commercial airliner, blazing a trail with its four Rolls-Royce Dart turbo-prop engines and opening European air routes to millions of tourists and business travellers.

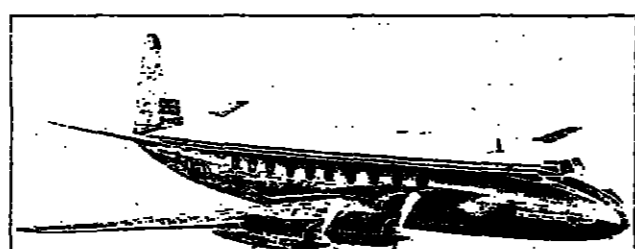
Next week many of those responsible for designing, developing and using the Vis-

count will take a 45-minute flight before the aircraft's seats are removed to turn it into a freighter. The end of a chapter in aviation history will be marked by Sir George Edwards, who led the Vickers design team immediately after the war, Sir Peter Masefield, chief executive of British European Airways who placed the orders and so launched the Viscount into commercial service in 1953, Jack Bryce, captain of the first prototype flight on July 16, 1948, and Captain Stan Jones, who commanded the aircraft in the London to New Zealand Air Race in 1953.

Within weeks the two remaining Viscounts, now owned by British World Airlines, will also become cargo carriers.

The Viscount was designed by the same team who designed and built the twin-engine Wellington bomber. The big difference, however, was in the engines. The Viscount used gas-turbine power for the first time in passenger service and established just how reliable the power plant could be at a time when pure jets were running into difficulty.

The Viscount was regarded as a breakthrough in commercial aircraft design, being fast, with big oval windows, a comfortable ride and fully



The fully pressurised Vickers Viscount offered new levels of comfort to millions of holidaymakers

pressurised. But although it was far superior to its competitors it did not enter scheduled airline service until April 18, 1953, with a flight from Heathrow to Cyprus. Flying time from London to Paris was only 70 minutes. The aircraft was sold to 60 airlines around the world and at one time BEA had more than 80.

Twenty-four Viscounts continued to fly for BEA and later British Airways until the early 1980s before being bought by British Air Ferries, operating from Southampton mainly to the Channel Islands. In 1981 BAF won a contract to carry oil industry workers from Aberdeen to Sumburgh in the Shetland Islands, from where they joined helicopters for flights to platforms in the northern North Sea. So far

over 1.5 million passengers have been flown on the route and the company, now known as British World Airlines, has had its contract renewed for another five years. The Viscount, however, is considered a bit too venerable to continue for that long and the airline has instead bought two new 70-seat ATR-72s. Each of the French-built turbo-props cost about £10 million, compared with the £500,000 the Viscount cost in 1957.

The three converted Viscounts will join five others now moving freight, mainly at night, between Belfast, Edinburgh and Coventry. They are expected to serve well into the next century. There are believed to be another 11 Viscounts flying in Zaire, Colombia and Indonesia.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lost Briton was on roof of hospital

A British tourist reported missing from a hospital in Hong Kong never left the premises and was found on the roof three days later.

Stuart Joy, 40, of Swansea, disappeared two days after being admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital with an apparent anxiety attack. A spokeswoman said yesterday. His wallet and passport remained beside his hospital bed and he was reported as missing to police.

Acid shuts M1

The M1 was closed at junction 34 for more than two hours and people were advised to stay indoors after a cloud of nitric acid gas escaped from an industrial plant in the Blackburn Meadows area of Sheffield. Rail services were also halted before the cloud dispersed.

Divine discovery

A lake discovered 500ft under the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, could save the health authority £1 million in water charges. The underground supply, located by a water diver, should be enough to meet the hospital's water needs for 30 years.

Care costs change

Pensioners can now keep £10,000 in savings or assets before they have to contribute to the cost of residential care. Those with savings of between £10,000 and £16,000 pay a contribution. Hitherto, most people with savings or assets of over £8,000 had to meet the entire cost.

Blind targets

Two elderly blind people were robbed as they walked to a friend's home for Easter Sunday lunch. John Butcher, 82, was carrying a white stick and leaning on the arm of his friend Gladys Wainwright when the two young robbers struck in York. Miss Wainwright, 76, lost £100.

Shining example

A policeman who wrote a guide to polishing shoes has been invited to sit on the consulting board of Kiwi, the polish maker. PC James McGowan, 35, of West Yorkshire Police, learnt to buff boots in the Irish Guards. His 32-page guide is to be sold in shoe shops.

Package flight for five survivors

Race to save the snake bitten by tourist boom

By STEPHEN THORPE AND NICK NUTTALL

A FAST-MOVING snake that could not move fast enough to escape imminent extinction has been airlifted from the West Indies to Britain for rescue. A breeding programme for the harmless Antigua racer could end a run of misfortune partly caused by tourists who made the same flight in the opposite direction.

Boats of island-hopping trippers have inadvertently increased the rat population on the snake's native islands. Rats bite the snake's tail, which houses its reproductive organs. A small group of survivors has been clinging to life at Great Bird Island, which has up to 30,000 picknicking visitors a year, mostly British. Many reptiles there have been killed in the mistaken belief that they were venomous.

Destruction caused by Hurricane Luis in the Leeward Islands last September worsened the snake's habitat. *Alsophis antiguae* has been placed in the highest category of threat under the World Conservation Union's listing: critically endangered. Now two males and three females —



The Antigua racer: fell foul of island picnickers

shipped in thermal packaging in the climate-controlled hold of a British Airways jumbo jet — are at Jersey Zoo, where it is hoped they will breed for reintroduction on suitable islands.

The rescue scheme has been planned and carried out by Dr Jennifer Daltry and Mark Day of Fauna and Flora International (FFI) with funding from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

They were invited to conduct an on-site assessment at Great Bird Island in October.

More than half of the estimated population of 50 had been injured by rats. It was this study which placed the species at the top of the endangered list. Too few of the metre-long snakes remained to simply translocate to adjacent islands and captive breeding became the only viable option.

Jersey Zoo, founded by the late Gerald Durrell, specialises in breeding rare species. Quentin Bloxam, the senior reptile curator, described the task as "crisis conservation and a major new initiative". The snakes, he said, had settled in well.

Feeding is always a problem but the technique of "odour manipulation" — in this case, rubbing dead mice with the scent of the snake's natural prey, lizard — is working and hopes are high for summer breeding.

Mark Day returns to Antigua next month to further a research, education and ecological restoration programme. As part of this, boat operators are being warned about the dangers of rat infestation. Juvenile Racers will be released as soon as possible and other islands colonised as part of a wider marine park programme.



Bryce commanded first prototype flight in 1948

Pathologist is cleared by inquiry

By JEREMY LAURANCE

A CONSULTANT pathologist who was suspended after doubts were raised about his diagnoses of suspected cancers has been quietly reinstated by his hospital after an

independent inquiry cleared him. Colleagues of Dr Irvin Lampert, a consultant at Ealing Hospital NHS Trust who was suspended in December 1993, have complained to the Royal College of Pathologists that damaging allegations about Dr Lampert that appeared in the press have never been withdrawn. *The Times* carried a report of his suspension on February 23, 1994.

Dr Lampert remained on full pay for more than a year while the hospital set up an inquiry, which met in January 1995 and immediately cleared him. He returned to work in February, and in September the trust wrote to him apologising for the delay in holding the inquiry and con-

fessing that he had been totally exonerated.

The finding was circulated to the President of the Royal College of Pathologists and other leading members of the profession but was not communicated to the press.

Julian Nien, chief executive of the trust said: "There was some pressure from colleagues outside the trust that we should write to *The Times*. We felt that would not be appropriate as it would draw attention to his suspension again. We feel we have fulfilled our obligations to the letter and Irvin Lampert has expressed satisfaction with those arrangements."

"I agree it was a long time to organise the inquiry, and we

have acknowledged that and apologised. We have worked very hard to get things back on an even keel."

Keith Lockyer, secretary of the Royal College of Pathologists, said: "Ealing NHS Trust made an enormously convoluted job of this inquiry but when the report was finalised it completely exonerated Dr Lampert and confirmed that he is an internationally renowned expert in certain rare diseases."

"All talk of incompetence was totally untrue. Unfortunately, the fact that he was exonerated did not get covered. Ealing may have been so embarrassed it did not want to draw attention to it."

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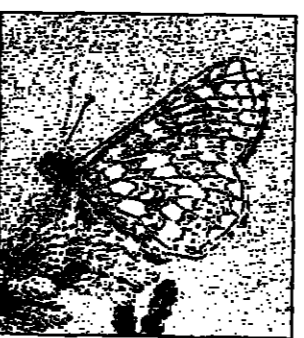
Once common butterfly becomes Britain's rarest

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A ONCE common butterfly has been officially designated as Britain's rarest. The high brown fritillary, which has orange wings with black spots, has suffered a 95 per cent decline since the 1950s.

Dr Martin Warren, of Butterfly Conservation, the wildlife group that carried out the first detailed survey, said yesterday that the species was "once so common that Victorian naturalists hardly noted it — it was almost solid in Kent, Surrey, Sussex and up to the Lake District and the Humber."

The new survey shows that the butterfly is now clinging on in 51 colonies, centred on Exmoor and Dartmoor, the Malvern Hills and the Herefordshire commons with some in the limestone hills around Morecambe Bay, Lancashire.



Falling numbers: the high brown fritillary

The survey, carried out on behalf of English Nature, the Government's wildlife adviser, will strengthen calls for more widespread grants to restore the ancient art of coppicing to woodlands.

Dr Warren said the species, *Argynnis adippe*, needed high temperature in the larval stage, during which it feeds on common dog violets or hairy

violets, to survive. Bracken, which is grazed by cattle, offers an ideal habitat. Across most of its former range, the high brown would bask in the sunny glades created by coppicing.

Dr Warren said widespread coppicing would not only benefit the high brown, but a wide range of species including other rare butterflies, the dormouse and insects. "Of the top five threatened butterflies, most are basically woodland species. All have suffered from a change in woodland management," he said.

Dr Warren said there was increasing recognition that coppicing made both economic and environmental sense if given a cash start. Coppiced wood can be used for thatching staves and is superior to plastic substitutes. Fencing and charcoal, B&Q are supporting a scheme to use British-grown charcoal for garden barbecues.

US courts uphold right to assisted suicide

FROM SAN FRANCISCO

Christianity blossoms where Red Guards marched

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN WENZHOU

THE sound of voices singing *Jin Zhao Ji Du Zan Fu Sheng* ("Christ the Lord is Risen Today") echoed yesterday around the winding old streets of Wenzhou, where a religious revival appears to be taking place in a city that saw some of the worst violence of China's Cultural Revolution.

A congregation of hundreds, the majority of them elderly, attended Easter Service at the Xi Cheng Protestant church, founded by a British missionary in 1898. The church reopened in the late 1980s, having been badly damaged by Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution, a period people here recall with revulsion.

But in this city of seven million, there are now about 700,000

practising Christians, said the Rev Wu Sheng Li. His words seem borne out by Wenzhou's taxi drivers, some of whom proselytise for numerous new churches here, even inviting fares to attend services.

"Despite the Red Guards," said Mr Wu, "the spirit of religion was kept alive by believers. Forbidden church services here, they moved to rural areas. When pursued there, they went into the high mountains to worship." Today Communist Party members quietly come to church, locals say.

Now Wenzhou is settling down after the nervousness of last month when China staged war-games designed to influence Taiwanese presidential elections, when locals say they saw hundreds of military vehicles heading south to neighbouring Fujian province opposite the break-away territory. "We don't want war,

Taipei: Liang Su-yung, an adviser to President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan, said yesterday that he will visit China next week in a private capacity. Mr Liang, 75, said he would give a speech on the reunification of Taiwan and China at Dongbei University. (AFP)

because we had enough chaos during the Cultural Revolution," said one 68-year-old man attending church service, who repeated the party line: "We hope Lee Teng-hui [the Taiwanese President] will not try to split Taiwan from the motherland, then we can have peace."

Wenzhou, which became a British treaty port in 1877, is a trend-setter. It pioneered small-scale capitalism in the early 1980s while the rest of China was still largely gripped by socialist

planning. During the Cultural Revolution, Red Guard and peasant militias fought it out with guns, and hundreds died.

But nowadays Wenzhou has a burgeoning wealthy class indulging in conspicuous consumerism and busy night streets lit by dazzling neon signs. The rich have posh cars and cellular phones are a must, said Jin Hang Bin, a young businessman.

But there is a vast underclass too, eking out a living by such occupations as moving huge concrete blocks on carts — father pulling, mother pushing, the single child adding his or her weight. "Material civilisation is valued more highly now than spiritual civilisation," said Mr Wu. But while there are extremes of rich and poor, there are chances for upward mobility. State-controlled firms represent less than 10 per cent of Wenzhou's economy, compared

with 45 per cent nationwide, and Wenzhou has thousands of family businesses making shoes, dresses and household goods in the cobbled old area which has not yet succumbed to high-rise fever.

But perhaps the girls of Wenzhou are its most striking feature. Dressed in the height of fashion, including miniskirts, they make Shanghai look old-fashioned. There is even a King's Road, with a series of fashion boutiques patronised by chic young women with money to spend.

"The girls in Wenzhou are smarter than those in Taiwan who these days just wear jeans or any old thing," said Mrs Li Wenhua, 67, a Taiwanese visitor who, unmoved by the recent military exercises, had returned to sweep and tend the graves of family ancestors.

Letters, Page 15

Liberia peace collapses as thousands seek refuge

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

FIGHTING in Liberia between government troops and supporters of a deposed warlord was believed to be spreading yesterday, while tens of thousands of people sought refuge in diplomatic compounds in the capital, Monrovia.

The airport remained closed as the West African country suffered its worst violence in three years. Tens of thousands of people have fled the coastal capital and up to 15,000 were given refuge at the American residential compound in Monrovia. More refugees were fleeing to the Ivory Coast to escape fighting around Zedru, home town of Samuel Doe, the country's late leader.

In Washington, Mike McCurry, the White House Press Secretary, called the trouble "a direct threat" to peace in the country. "We are very concerned with the unconscionable use of force in Liberia and the fighting in Monrovia," he said.

Kallu Kalumina, of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, whose office is next door to the American compound in Monrovia, said by telephone: "It is extremely tense and violent. I don't think there is any building which is safe here. There seems to be no law and order."

De Kalumina, who was sheltering on the floor of the UNHCR offices, said: "Today will probably be a decisive day, though it would appear that the police, supported by troops loyal to the Govern-

ment, are in the ascendancy. It is real pandemonium."

Fighting in the country, which was founded by freed American slaves in 1847, erupted on Saturday when government troops tried to force Roosevelt Johnson, the rebel leader, out of his home in the eastern suburb of Sinkor. General Johnson, who was recently dismissed as Minister of Rural Development, is wanted on murder charges after clashes killed several people in the capital last week.

Government troops overran his compound on Sunday, but he escaped and is rumoured to have joined hundreds of supporters who have taken over one of the city's main army barracks. Soldiers of Ecomog, the African peace-keeping army in Liberia, have stayed out of the fighting, to the dismay of civilians.

Sydney Sims, a spokesman at the US Embassy, said an American military team from Europe was due in the capital later yesterday to determine whether 470 Americans should be evacuated.

The Egyptian Ambassador and other diplomats were being sheltered at the US Embassy. Some United Nations offices, including those of the World Health Organisation and the UN Observer Mission, have been looted.

It was not known whether any Britons were affected, but the Foreign Office in London repeated long-standing advice not to travel to the country.

A peace accord signed in August 1995 was to have cleared the way for elections this year, but has collapsed like at least a dozen before it.

General Johnson joined the Government which took power after the signing of the accord, but was dismissed because of alleged involvement in ceasefire violations.

The war has killed more than 150,000 people and left more than half of the country's 2.3 million people homeless.



A South Korean soldier takes aim into the demilitarised zone where North Korean forces have been sent three times in recent days, raising tension in the border area

Seoul 'to shoot intruders'

FROM REUTERS IN SEOUL

THE South Korean Army will shoot any North Korean troops crossing the border in the demilitarised zone, the domestic Yonhap news agency said yesterday.

North Koreans have in the past been warned first when crossing the border and given a chance to retreat before being shot at. South Korean Navy and Air Force officers were also instructed to deal sternly with any provocation by North Koreans, who have sent troops into the demilitarised zone on three occasions in recent days, the latest being on Sunday, raising tensions in the border area.

The incursions into the sensitive region are a dramatic signal of Pyongyang's intention to completely ignore a truce agreement that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

Yesterday North Korea broke a nearly two-day silence over the tension, again blaming the crisis on Seoul and adding "belligerent quarters of the United States" to its list of trouble-makers.

A commentary in *Rodong Sinmun*, the Communist Party newspaper, said South Korea faced an "irrevocable disaster" if it ignored Pyongyang's warning against making war preparations to invade North Korea.

Analysts in Seoul and Tokyo said North Korea's almost theatrical incursion into Panmunjom at night appeared to be more diplomatic than military and aimed at pressing Washington to agree to military talks with Pyongyang. North Korea has long wanted to wash its hands of the armistice agreement and to sign a peace treaty with Washington.

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Minister defends Nkomo's racial outburst

FROM MICHAEL HARTNACK IN HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S Health Minister, Timothy Stamps, yesterday attempted to limit the damage to race relations after an emotional diatribe against whites delivered by Joshua Nkomo, the Vice-President.

Speaking at the graveside of his son Thuthani, 41, the man called "the Father of African nationalism in Rhodesia" blamed whites for Thuthani's death last week from AIDS-related respiratory failure.

In the latest in a series of attacks on Zimbabwe's 70,000 remaining whites, Mr Nkomo said they had deliberately introduced the AIDS virus with the aim of wiping out the 11.2 million black population and taking their land and wealth.

"Unfortunately it backfired because they, too, are dying of it, but still they have knowledge of its origins and how it can be cured, but they just do not want to share that knowledge," Mr Nkomo, 79, said.

Dr Stamps, who emigrated to what was then white-ruled Rhodesia from Wales in 1969 and joined Mr Mugabe's party soon after independence in 1980, yesterday blamed Mr Nkomo's outburst on prominence given by the local media to Wolff Geisler, a visiting German author who claims AIDS is "a plot against dark-skinned people" invented by Western scientists.

The epidemic, now reported to affect more than 10 per cent of the population and to claim at least 300 lives a week, was denied initially by Dr Stamps's predecessor, Herbert Ushewokunze, who died of an AIDS-related illness earlier this year.

Dr Stamps said that Mr Nkomo's complaint of lack of help from whites was partially justified by French and American scientists' failure to notify Africa promptly when the virus was first identified.

□ Fishing ban: The Government yesterday banned all commercial fishing and recreational activities at Lake Chivero, Harare's main water source, where pollution has killed thousands of fish. (AFP)

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Peking scorns state of Britain

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

PEKING chose yesterday's Easter holiday as the perfect opportunity to remind the people of Hong Kong how fortunate they were to be rid of themselves of degenerate British rule.

An editorial in the staunchly pro-China *Wen Wei Po* told readers that Britain had the worst human rights record in Europe, that its teenagers work in sweatshops and unemployed families "eat potatoes six days a week and can afford steak only once a week". The attack rounded off a week of propaganda from China, alternately wooing Hong Kong with a soothing

advertising campaign for co-operation and then peppering some of its "information" channels with vintage invective. The *Ta Kung Pao*, a sister paper to the *Wen Wei Po*, accused Britain of conspiring with Hong Kong's Democratic Party to extend colonial rule.

Last weekend the territory voted with its feet on Peking's latest outburst: 150,000 ethnic Chinese joining a mile-long queue for British passports. This weekend the editorial and a call from China for Hong Kong's children to re-discover "patriotism" and throw off the colonial yoke has sparked further mass dissent.

Wang Fengchao, deputy director of Peking's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, told schools they must remind young people "of their true national identity." But Au Pak-kuo, vice president of the Hong Kong teachers' union, responded: "Letting our kids know only the things the rulers would like them to know is indoctrination — not education."

Many teachers, businessmen and civil servants speak of a desire to leave for Canada or Australia. "Migration is the best protection against Communists," said 23-year-old trader Simon Li.

Envoy charged with child sex

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A SENIOR Australian diplomat who has been charged with sex offences against children overseas, is to appear in a Canberra court this month, police confirmed yesterday.

John Holloway, a former Ambassador to Cambodia, faces charges under the Child Sex Tourism Act, which was introduced in 1994 to protect children outside Australia. The prosecution will be only the second of its kind.

A spokesman for Australia's federal police confirmed that the diplomat had been charged by summons served on his lawyers but refused to

elaborate on the nature or number of charges. Conviction under the new law carries a maximum jail term of 17 years. Mr Holloway, who has strongly denied accusations of paedophilia, is scheduled to appear in court on April 30.

Confirmation of the child sex proceedings against him comes at a time of increasing concern over allegations of widespread paedophilia made during the current Wood royal commission into police corruption in New South Wales. The hearing has been told of a paedophile ring in Sydney in which rich businessmen who took advantage of under-age

youths were protected by corrupt police officers.

□ San Antonio, Texas: A self-proclaimed "child-molesting demon" who threatened to kill his next victims was released from prison yesterday after agreeing to what officials called "unprecedented" parole restrictions.

Larry Don McQuay, who has asked to be castrated in the hope that it would stop his urge to molest, is to live in a halfway house here. Dan Morales, the Texas Attorney General, said the state may allow him to be castrated after his release if he continues to request it. (AP)

Black photographer cashes in on negative exposure

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

WHEN Baroness Thatcher arrived in Cape Town a few days ago for a low-key Easter break with her son Mark she came face to face with a new growth industry — South Africa's paparazzi.

Driven by the entrepreneurial zest the former British Prime Minister so fervently endorses, the business shows great financial promise. The arrival in Cape Town of Earl Spencer, the brother of the Princess of Wales, close on the heels of Mark Thatcher and a bevy of international stars, has brought celebrity fever to the country.

The most prominent figure in the growing posse of pictorial fortune-seekers is Fannie Jason, 42, a black

father of two whose guile matches that of more seasoned European and American paparazzi professionals. After years subsisting on the breadline recording township violence, Cape Town's rich and famous pays beyond his wildest dreams. Last month alone he pulled in about 30,000 rands (£6,000).

He says his skin colour and patience are the keys to his success. When Earl Spencer's house recently underwent renovation Mr Jason slipped into overalls and entered the premises disguised as a workman.

"Spencer suddenly turned around as I was about to take a

picture of him so I dropped my camera and picked up some bricks," Mr Jason said. "I was worried that he may have spotted me but when I called out 'hello baas' [boss] in a subservient manner he smiled and walked away."

The photographer showed his deftness when Andrew Parker Bowles, ex-husband of Camilla, recently spent his honeymoon in South Africa. He told the hotel receptionist to inform Mr Parker Bowles that his "friend" Fannie Jason was here to speak to him.

"Once he was on line I took the phone from the receptionist and he protested that he did not want any publicity. I started waffling about

how I worked for a black newspaper and that black people in South Africa were very interested in his visit. I heard him call across the room to his wife 'Darling it's the black press, I think we should do this one.'"

Within minutes he had them perched on a bench in the hotel garden and hours later their photos were splashed across British and South African newspapers.

"It is the other side of the struggle. The game is the same, it's just the players that have changed," he says. "Compared to the apartheid days playing hide and seek is easy. It pays to be black and I intend to exploit that."



Jason: "The game is the same, but the players have changed"

iday pace

■ VISUAL ART 1

A new National Portrait Gallery show looks at how Livingstone and the Victorians grappled with Africa

■ VISUAL ART 2

Avis Newman fills the Camden Arts Centre with her paintings, her first British exhibition for five years

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

... while Alison Wilding meditates on mortality in her intriguing stainless steel sculpture, *Echo*

■ VISUAL ART 4

... and an account of what the artist Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster saw as a French visitor to India

GALLERY ROUND-UP

THERE are perhaps too many elements in Ed Lipski's first one-person show, but it is obvious that the overcrowding is intended to wrongfoot any simple understanding of what he is about. A huge daft blackbird, covered in real feathers, hangs low in the gallery on a perch. Models of children have black, beady mounds smeared illogically across their mouths and eyes. A pink pig becomes a rounded, faceless, tail-less object with few features left. It is difficult to know just where the references associated with one object stop and the next lot start, but such work suggests exciting possibilities. *Entwistle, 6 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-734 6440) until May 4*

□ The inaugural exhibition at Robert Prime is an account by Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster of what she saw as a French visitor to India. Through the simple device of mapping out distinct areas in colour painted on to the walls, she manages to orchestrate divisions and boundaries between different spaces in the gallery. Photographs, maps and plans of Chandigarh in the Punjab, designed by Le Corbusier, show the contradiction between untidy reality and planned Modernism. Without attempting a false overview, however, Gonzalez-Foerster also shows transparencies of a face or hand, and details taken from Indian painting fixed on to fluorescent citron-green walls. *Robert Prime, 60/61 Warren Street, London W1 (0171-916 6366) until April 20*

□ The sheer range of Graham Gussin's work seems to demand a particular kind of attention. Labour-intensive pencil drawings of aerial overviews are shown alongside finely drawn abstract plans, maps and diagrams. At the back of the larger gallery space, a huge picture of two islands ringed by sand and water presents an unreal "view", hinting at the constructed maps, signs, plans and charts next door and downstairs. This newly opened gallery space has been perhaps overfilled by Gussin in his enthusiasm to nudge the viewer towards limitless possibilities. *Lotta Hammer, 51 Cleveland Street, London W1 (0171-636 2223) until May 10*

SACHA CRADDOCK

The Livingstone exhibition is a revealing anatomy of the British way with empires, says Isabel Carlisle

If you expect a soul-searching, politically correct examination of the white man's burden from the National Portrait Gallery's exhibition on Livingstone and Africa, you will be disappointed. This show is about the Victorians and how they grappled with the great continent: determination, self-help and obsessive ambition are the meaty themes.

David Livingstone's background as a child factory worker who achieved his ambition to be a missionary by night-time study, his belief in commerce as an arm of philanthropy, his anti-slavery stance and physical bravery, all locked into Victorian ideals and aspirations. His expeditions constituted all that was best about the British Empire and outflanked the competition in the race for Africa.

That he, in fact, consistently failed to achieve what he set out to do was, in the long run, of minor importance. Livingstone's exploits were extraordinary from any point of view. He arrived in South Africa in 1841 as a missionary but stayed put only long enough to make one convert. (Unfortunately for the London Missionary Society, which had sent Livingstone, this was a slight conquest because Chief Sechele of the Kwenia endured monogamy for only a matter of months. Livingstone was not unsympathetic: he understood the African resistance to Christianity, which attacked the very basis of their way of life.) Instead, leaving the mission behind, Livingstone between 1853 and 1856 set off to traverse sub-Saharan Africa from coast to coast, a distance of about 2,000 miles from Luanda in the west to Quelimane near the mouth of the Zambezi in the east: one of the two or three greatest feats of land exploration in history.

En route, he encountered Mosioatunya, "the smoke that thunders", and named it the Victoria Falls. Livingstone came back to England a hero, lionised in society and welcomed into the tight network of science and politics in which Sir Roderick Murchison,

president of the Royal Geographical Society, played a key role. It was Murchison who obtained the support of Parliament for Livingstone's second African expedition: the exploration of the Zambezi.

The Zambezi trip was a disaster. The steamboat that had been transported in bits from England kept running aground and had to be abandoned. The enormous drop of 600ft of the Cabora Bassa rapids in any case meant that the river was unnavigable, and plans of opening up southern Africa to industry and commerce via the Zambezi had to be abandoned.

Livingstone quarrelled with all the expedition's members in turn, including his brother. Nor were any converts made, and many of

the missionaries who had been encouraged by Livingstone's unrealistic accounts died of malaria and other diseases.

Acutely conscious of his failure and of the withdrawal of public esteem, Livingstone conceived an ambition to compete with Grant, Burton and Speke in the race to find the source of the Nile. It was on this last, badly planned expedition that Livingstone disappeared and James Gordon Bennett, Editor of the *New York Herald*, sent his reporter Stanley to find him, thus engineering one of the greatest scoops in the history of journalism.

Finding in Livingstone the father figure that he lacked, Stanley ignored the flaws in his character and instead described Livingstone

as "near an angel as the nature of living man will allow". The discovery of a forgotten saint rather than a brave but embittered man undoubtedly also made for better copy. Stanley's account formed the core for the myth that was to be constructed about Livingstone after his death in the swamps of Lake Bangweulu on the same expedition in 1873.

Because Livingstone could not draw, the plates for his first book (a bestseller) were worked up in London from verbal descriptions. On the Zambezi trip the party included an artist called Thomas Baines, whose sketches and paintings are one of the delights of this show.

Baines resisted Livingstone's instructions to make purely ethnographic drawings of the Africans they encountered and painted sympathetic portraits of two of the slaves at the Portuguese colony of Tete. He later went on to produce the first painting of the Victoria Falls, a fascinating meeting of the British landscape tradition with a drama of sub-tropical vegetation, panic-stricken water buffalo, big game hunters and the thundering waters of the falls.

Paintings are only a part of the context within which this show tells Livingstone's story. Photographs, letters, travel notes, scientific records, stuffed birds and animals, as well as artefacts brought back from Africa, all evoke the continent

through the sensibilities and preoccupations of the Victorian explorers. Having grown up in a pre-Darwinian generation, these men had no problems in perceiving Africa through a fusion of science, religion and poetry.

Most extraordinary and most poignant perhaps are the hats that Livingstone and Stanley wore at their famous meeting, and a section of the baobab tree under which Livingstone's African bearers buried his heart before carrying his body to the coast. I defy anyone not to engage with this insight into the anatomy of empire.

● David Livingstone and the Victorian encounter with Africa, at the National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (0171-360055) until July 7

Exploring the heart of Africa

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY



Herd of Buffalo opposite Garden Island, Victoria Falls (c 1862-65) by Thomas Baines. His paintings and sketches are one of the delights of the Livingstone show

Look closer, and all is revealed

Richard Cork looks beyond the delicate self-effacement and falls for the strength of Avis Newman's paintings and Alison Wilding's sculpture, now on show in London

SOME artists thrive on constant visibility, moving from one show to the next with an insatiable thirst for exposure. Others prefer a more reclusive approach. They exhibit sparingly, and never push themselves into headline-hogging manoeuvres. Their work shuns boisterous spectacle, opting instead for subtle, slow-burning strategies which can easily be overlooked by anyone in search of a quick visual fix. But they often turn out to be immensely rewarding, and provide experiences more satisfying than the work of their high-profile contemporaries.

Two of the finest of these deceptively quiet artists, Avis Newman and Alison Wilding, happen to be showing in London at the moment. Their work does not disappoint.

Newman, holding her first exhibition in Britain for five years, fills the Camden Arts Centre with large paintings and small objects that make no attempt to seize the viewer's attention. Seen from a distance, as you enter the grand, handsome gallery where most of them are displayed, the paintings look like monochrome abstractions. Only after closer inspection do these after closer inspection do these seemingly all-black or all-white images disclose the marks Newman has left on their surfaces.

She thinks of them as spiders' webs, and they certainly have the fragility of thin, delicate, tracery discovered dangling in a hedge or a

neglected doorway. But if the word "web" implies something intact, then it is misleading. For the faint linear trails in Newman's pictures all seem broken. The "web" has already begun to disintegrate. Its particles hover uncertainly in space, ready to be battered still further by a sudden rush of wind. At their strongest, on a white canvas called *Webs*

'Their work shuns spectacle, opting for subtle, slow-burning strategies'

(Backlight) V, displayed in a smaller room, the slender black and grey lines lance through the milkiness of the pigment around them. But even here, they are far from aggressive. They straggle and falter, declaring their hesitancy without pretence.

In most of the paintings, though, Newman's marks are more elusive. They hover on the edge of invisibility, and the edge of particles so break up into particles so small that they resemble a flock of birds wheeling far above the ground. In the white above the ground, they seem about to melt in an all-enveloping haze of radiance. But the black paintings are more alarming, and suggest that the thin lines

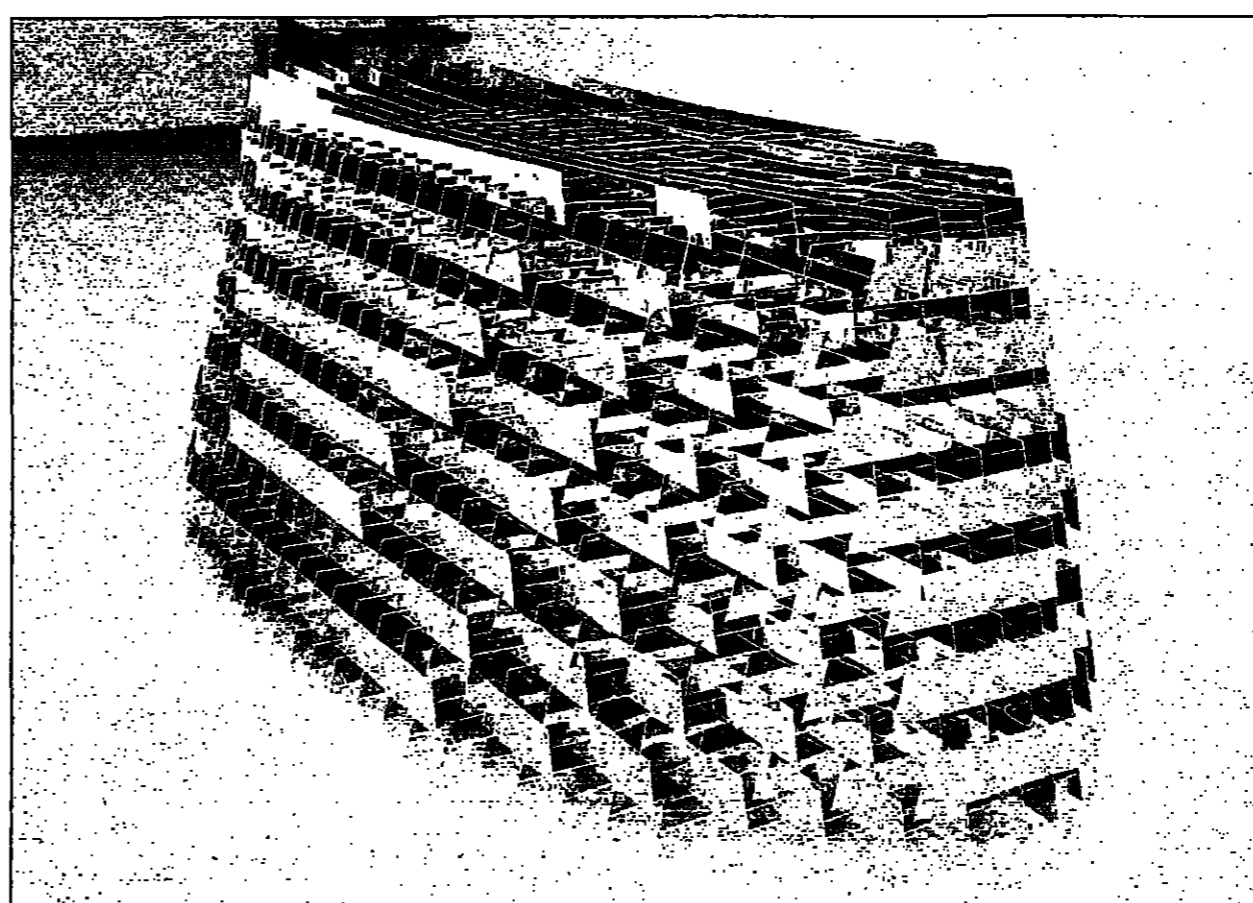
are threatened with obliteration by a voracious darkness. They flicker in the void, ready at an instant to vanish altogether.

These canvases are quite distinct from Newman's work in the 1980s. There, the presence of both humans and animals could be detected in the billowing forms she spread across her picture-surface. However ambiguous they may have been, they insisted on playing a substantial role in the turbulence of the painting as a whole.

Now, by contrast, they linger only as fast-dissolving suggestions of their former existence. Newman now regards them as, at best, spectral memories. In her latest paintings the particles have been completely absorbed in dense fields of subdued colour. Absence here becomes an unavoidable reality. Like so many other artists in the mid-1990s, Newman is preoccupied by transience and loss.

Only in her boxes does she retain a hold over the solidity of objects. Supported by white plinths and encased in Perspex containers, these wood rectangles await examination in the third gallery. Some contain shells, arranged neatly on ledges like prized items in a collection. Others are hard to fathom, like the box opening on one side to reveal a dour, stained surface within.

But these boxes lack the imaginative power Newman commands when she applies brush to canvas. I spent far



"As frustrating as the interior of a Piranesi prison": Alison Wilding's stainless steel and polished brass sculpture, *Echo* (1995)

more time with the paintings, and found myself fascinated by their ability to alter each time they were scrutinised. Nuance is all in these evanescent images. If they are preoccupied with the inevitability of loss, their refinement ensures that melancholy is countered by a beautifully judged lyricism. That is why Newman's exhibition is, in the end, so heartening. It confronts the prospect of extinction with poise, and refuses to let gloom snuff out vitality even when exploring the very heart of darkness.

Alison Wilding, whose exhibition at Karsten Schubert consists of a single sculpture, also meditates on mortality. *Echo*, the title she has chosen for this gently commanding work, reminds us of the nymph who died after yearning

without avail for Narcissus's love. She gradually faded into the encircling forest, and Wilding's horizontal sculpture rests on the floor like a monumental coffin.

Rather than oppressing us with its bulk, however, *Echo* proves as elusive as one of Newman's feathery paintings. Its interlocking stainless steel slats tease the eye with their geometrical complexity. Highly reflective, they are broken up by the light. And, as we explore their glinting, fractured segments, so we realise how bewildering the structure will remain.

Like Narcissus, I found my own face mirrored when I crouched down to peer into the sculpture. But it was a fragmented reflection, and I grew simultaneously aware of my ability to see deep inside the

work. There, the fantastic intricacy of the slats creates labyrinthine spaces as frustrating as the interior of a Piranesi prison.

Gradually, though, I became conscious of a presence lodged inside. Difficult to see from the sides, it is clearer from above. Made of polished brass, this mysterious sphere may refer to Echo's head. But Wilding ensures that it evades any clear-cut identification, even if the sharpness of the slats might well evoke Echo's body as it changed from bones to rock.

Metamorphosis is surely the governing idea at work. The initial impression of a coffin gives way to a more transparent alternative, inviting us to lose ourselves in its maze-like interior. As ever in Wilding's work, tension is

generated by the bringing together of two contrasted elements: the brittle interplay of countless steel units, and the rounded solidity of a single

brass form. Ultimately, though, the sphere proves impossible to pin down: whenever we look at it from a different angle, the brass appears to have changed position. Instead of remaining solitary, it jumps around the sculpture like the voice of Echo herself, who could only speak when repeating someone else's words.

So we are left with a stimulating conundrum. If Wilding's exhibit is indeed concerned with a nymph's death, it can be seen as a sombre memorial. At the same time, however, the restlessness created by its reflections and baffling interstices is at odds with the whole notion of a sarcophagus. The artist herself has written that, when she was working on the model for *Echo*, it exuded "a concentrated stare, of brass at steel and steel at brass. It's an intense, obsessive stare and mirrors mine at it."

Those words help to explain why the entire sculpture seems far too alive to be confined by the negation of the grave. Suspended within its metal prison, the sphere may still be animated by the nymph's unrequited passion.

● Avis Newman at Camden Arts Centre, Ardwright Road, London NW3 (0171-435 2643) until May 5
● Alison Wilding at Karsten Schubert, 41/42 Foley Street, London W1 (0171-631 0031) until Saturday, and then at Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, April 25 to May 31

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Sue Wright explains why she finally decided to take the test for Huntington's disease

When my father was first diagnosed as having Huntington's disease (HD) it was a shock to us all, as we did not know that it ran in the family. I was 14 years old when I knew that my two sisters and I had a 50 per cent chance of developing HD.

I am now 39 years old and have lived with that risk for many years. It's a yo-yo type of existence: one minute convinced that you have HD, the next feeling guilty that you might be worrying about nothing — you might be in the 50 per cent who do not have the HD gene. It was always in the background, becoming worse at certain times of life. It was another complication to consider when forming relationships with boyfriends. Life insurance and endowments have also been a problem.

When I applied for a nursing job in New Zealand I realised that they would not accept me on a long-term basis. In practice, being at risk meant that I was treated in the same way as if I definitely had the gene. (Those who are HIV-positive but who don't have Aids are in a similar predicament.)

Howard and I had known each other for about five years when we decided to go for genetic counselling in January 1993. We were serious about each other but unable to make any decisions regarding marriage or having a family. It was one thing to know that I could develop HD myself, but quite another knowing that any children would be at risk too. We needed to find out about all the options before deciding whether or not to have a family.

When we first started genetic counselling no one was yet able to predict how close they were to cloning the gene. The only other test that was available was an exclusion test. This would compare my genetic material with my mother's. The locus could then be tested, and if it had my mother's genetic material it was less likely to have my father's.

Although Howard and I had an easy and open relationship, it was often less painful to avoid speaking about important issues. The counselling was on a regular basis and we really appreciated the professional way in which it was carried out. We were able to reveal our worst fears to ourselves and to each other. Did we really want to have a child, and could we cope with having an abortion?

When the HD gene was



Sue Wright with Elizabeth: "At some point we will have to explain to her that her mother has this gene, but we will take life as it comes." Photograph by PETER NICHOLLS

For the love of Elizabeth

cloned in March 1993 we had already had a few sessions with our genetic counsellor. I had been waiting for years for the gene to be identified, and when I found that I could have a genetic test it was a strange feeling. We had to consider seriously whether we were better off living at risk or living knowing I had the gene. There would be no going back.

The fact that we wanted a child also put a slightly different angle on the situation. If I knew that I had the gene, then I would know whether I could

pass it on or not. It seemed the most sensible first step. I also felt that if I had the gene and had any regrets later in knowing about it, then at least I would feel that I had done it for the sake of a possible child.

We decided to go ahead with the test. Howard and I planned to get married before-hand — we knew we wanted to make a commitment to each other. However, it meant at least two counselling sessions with three months between them. Before the test we both felt that if I did have the gene

we would not have a child. Part of me was afraid of knowing that I might have the gene, but then I also felt fed up with being at risk. It was also difficult not to think of the possibility of being clear. We tried not to raise our hopes. When we were given the date of our test result, we booked a holiday so that neither of us had to be at work after the result was known.

I took care in deciding which friends I could tell, as not all would understand. This choice became more important as we approached the test because we knew that we needed the support of friends, but also that we needed privacy and space — particularly if we had to come to terms with a positive result. Therefore, we decided to confide in just two couples with whom we were close and whose views we respected. Our families were too close to talk to immediately.

When we had the result that I had the gene it was still a shock. We had feelings which were similar to a bereavement: first, we knew I would get HD, and secondly, what at the time seemed inevitable — the loss of not having a child. However, we had been well prepared. We both felt more at peace now we knew I had the gene. I'm sure fear can build up around something that might or might not happen and sometimes it's better to know the truth.

Neither of us regretted the decision at all. We continued with the counselling and were surprised that we still wanted

to have a child. Initially, I felt guilty about this. I felt that because I have the gene I should not have a child as well. Perhaps I saw Howard looking after me and a needy child, or perhaps I just felt it wouldn't be fair to the child knowing that I could be ill for many years.

However, we had always wanted a child and, in the end, after a lot of agonising, I chose to get pregnant. We had also decided that we would have the baby tested. It is the same test that I had, but done on the

burden, and our friends were very supportive too. I found out that I was five weeks pregnant in February last year. I felt pretty neutral about it because, in a way, I was gearing myself up for a termination — there was no point in getting excited, only for it all to end.

Those six weeks leading up to the test were very hard. I hadn't told my family about the fact that I had inherited the gene, and so chose not to tell them about the pregnancy, either. Howard and I both felt that it wouldn't have been worth telling them without the happy news that the baby was clear. It was very stressful, the sort of time you can't really describe in words.

The test on the baby was performed at Guy's Hospital. It is like an amniocentesis, on a sample of cells. It is strange that a test that will reveal something so momentous only takes such a short while. We waited just under a week for the result, just praying for the right news. When we found out, the relief was enormous, we were so happy. The baby was completely clear.

I decided that the moment was then right to tell my family both about my own test and the baby. It was a very emotional time, as there was great sadness for me mixed with great joy for the baby. My family were not taken aback in the sense that they always knew we were all at risk from the gene, but so far they have chosen not to take the test.

In September last year I gave birth to a beautiful 7lb 13oz baby girl, Elizabeth. It is a source of great joy for us both. At some point we will have to explain to her that her mother has this gene, but we will take it as it comes and pray for advancements in medical science. The way I see it, people get ill anyway and there is no point in upsetting her unnecessarily.

We won't have another child, as the risk is not reduced and I don't feel I want to go through it again. We have been blessed with Elizabeth, and we want to enjoy her. The main thing is knowing that she's not at risk. We keep our minds open about the rest.

● Sue Wright tells her story in *The Troubled Helix*, social and psychological implications of the new human genes, edited by *Thomas Martens and Martin Richards* (Cambridge University Press)

● Huntington's Disease Association, 108 Battersea High Street, London SW11 3HP (0171 223 7000).

HOW HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE IS INHERITED

HUNTINGTON'S disease is a degenerative condition of the central nervous system that generally develops in middle age. Sufferers gradually deteriorate to a point where they require total care before they die.

The disease is inherited and affects about one in 5,000 people in Britain and America. If your father or mother has the gene you have a 50 per cent chance of

inheriting it. If you do, you will definitely develop Huntington's, although its severity varies widely; you may also pass it to your children. If you do not inherit it, you will not develop the disease or pass it to your children.

Since 1993 a genetic test has been available but most people who know that Huntington's runs in the family have not taken advantage of it.

When exercise is bad for you

If you are not fit, don't overdo it, says Dr Thomas Stuttaford

WATCHED by more than seven million television viewers Adam Frost, the stroke of the Oxford boat, clutched his chest as he crossed the finishing line at Chiswick Bridge after four miles and 374 yards of gruelling rowing.

As Mr Frost is only 21 and in peak condition, he can be assured that the race is unlikely to have done him harm: any chest discomfort is likely to stem from simple breathlessness coupled with disappointment. If he were unfit, or older, the gesture might have had a more sinister connotation.

Research workers funded by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) recently investigated the effect of exercise on fibrinogen levels. Fibrinogen is one of the clotting factors in the blood and it is thought to be implicated in coronary heart disease: too much circulating fibrinogen can be a portent of cardiac trouble.

A team of research workers, doctors and scientists, from University College Hospital, London, has studied the effects of exercise on army recruits. The team, led by Professor Steven Humphries, took regular blood samples from 150 entrants and plotted the effect of what was for many of them unaccustomed physical exercise. The study provided further proof that regular exercise, whether around the parade ground or across country, was good for the heart. In the first ten weeks of training the average fibrinogen levels dropped significantly, by 11.9 per cent.

The lower fibrinogen levels

found in well-drilled soldiers provide a wonderful argument for the brisk walk to the office each morning, but the rest of the research casts considerable doubt about the benefits of violent exercise, whether it is, for instance, rowing in the university Boat Race or running the London Marathon.

The BHF found that fibrinogen levels responded quite differently when exercise was carried to the point of exhaustion, as in the Boat Race or when the recruits they were studying were driven to the limits of their physical endurance. In these stressful circumstances blood fibrinogen levels leapt up, but Professor Humphries was content that as the recruits were young, healthy and by now physically fit, their hearts were not in danger.

Professor Humphries's research also found that 20 per cent of the population inherit a gene which gives them higher levels of fibrinogen when leading a normal life, and an increased liability to suffer a particularly marked rise in the level after exhausting exercise.

Professor Brian Pentecost, the medical director of the BHF, said: "This research confirms that regular exercise, enough to make you slightly breathless, is ideal when taken for 30 minutes

five days a week, but that it should not be so violent as to leave you exhausted." Earlier research has shown that illness, cold weather and unaccustomed exhausting exercise, particularly for those who are normally sedentary, increase blood fibrinogen levels, and appear to be part of the cause of heart attacks and strokes. The change, for instance, in the fibrinogen levels after a chilling 20 minutes in the cold can be enough to cause a reaction.

and is one of the factors which help to fill the obituary columns after a cold snap.

Finding that there is a variant in the fibrinogen gene which occurs in a fifth of the population and which is associated with increased fibrinogen levels brings doctors closer to being able to predict which of their patients have a high risk of suffering coronary heart disease.

Once identified, these people can be treated and given advice as to the activities they should pursue. This advice would include not taking part in marathon running, and it might even discourage exchanging life at a City desk, with little daily exercise, for the rigours of the ski slopes.

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The socialist queen of Herts?

Barbara Follett's political ambitions have produced resentment in the Tory marginal, Stevenage. Julia Llewellyn Smith canvassed opinion in both the old and new towns

It is a pretty white workman's cottage, with a tiled roof and red door. The tiny front lawn is immaculately kept and in the patch of garden at the back the primroses are in bloom. But few people would want to swap a £2 million mansion in Chelsea or a villa in the South of France for this three-up, two-down in the heart of Stevenage's old town.

Yet this is the house that Barbara Follett, 53, wife of the bestselling novelist and millionaire Ken, bought for £110,000 when she learnt she had won the Labour candidacy for this marginal seat. Already she spends Thursday to Sunday here, and if she wins the seat from the Tory Tim Wood she says she will move there full-time.

A former "image maker" to the Labour Party, Mrs Follett spent years brushing flecks of dandruff off lapels, straightening collars and ensuring that no party member wore odd socks. If ever a place needed a Follett makeover it is Stevenage, a new town 25 miles north of London, built to overcome the chronic housing shortage in the capital after the war. Its population rose from 6,200 to 76,000 but the boom was brief. Now unemployment stands at 8 per cent.

No wonder, then, that in the mock-Tudor houses of the Conservative old town and the postwar housing estates of the Labour new town, Mrs Follett's campaign is viewed with a deep-rooted cynicism.

Already Mrs Follett has enraged the locals by painting her front door red to match her trademark jackets, in a preservation area where all other doors are white. She then made matters worse when she applied for planning permission to expand the garden to include a public footpath and some bushes, which she planned to enclose with a brick wall.

"It was a very insensitive act," says an elderly neighbour, who declined to be named. "It offended the residents of the old town, who hate flashy newcomers, and it offended all the unemployed

people who saw them arriving and immediately trying to take over public land to expand their property."

The Folletts, realising they were causing resentment, soon backed down, but the incident confirmed many people's suspicions about the couple who are the embodiment of the phrase "champagne socialism".

the kit of the top-scoring striker at Stevenage Borough Football Club, make regular appearances at local schools, and have donated dozens of signed copies of Follett first editions to charity auctions.

Mrs Follett explains that she was attracted to Stevenage because it was the first new town to be built by Labour after the war. "You still feel that 1945 vision is there," she says. "They still give the kids free milk in the schools every day. Community still matters to them. It's a bit like an expatriate community; these are East Enders who have been bombed out of London and dumped in Hertfordshire. I was born in Jamaica and grew up in South Africa and have spent my life moving around, often in expatriate situations, so I can relate to that."

Stevenage is taking a little while to become used to her, however. "I'm not surprised the old town doesn't like her," says Marie Huber, a pensioner who does voluntary work at the Garden House hospice shop in the old town's High Street. "I have been here 33 years and for a long time after I arrived, there were shopkeepers who would make a point of serving the old towners before the new towners."

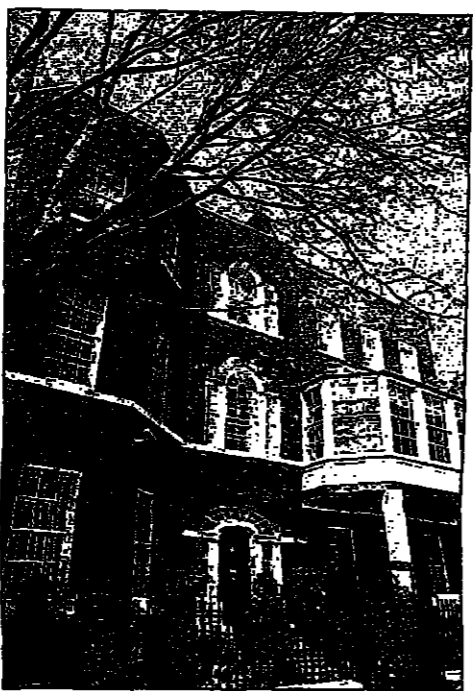
"I think she has been put here to try and get on," says fellow volunteer Eve Blake, 69. "I don't like being used as the backdoor way in. I would vote Labour in the local elections because I'm quite satisfied with the council, but I definitely wouldn't vote for her."

"I can't understand someone with all that money coming in as a Labour candidate. I'm sure people like her don't understand those they are standing for. In the old Labour days they did come up the hard way. With modern Labour I don't know."

Chris Parker, librarian at the old-town library (where several Follett blockbusters line the returns shelves), says: "Stevenage is very split; this end is very conservative. She is making an effort but I don't think she could do anything right if she tried."



The candidate's constituency cottage...



...and her other house in Chelsea

This is Mrs Follett's third house in Chelsea, after two unsuccessful attempts in 1983 and 1987 on Tory strongholds in Surrey. This time she has embarked on an intensive campaign to demolish Mr Wood's majority of 4,388, which would disappear with a 3 per cent swing, easily achievable according to the latest opinion polls.

The Folletts have sponsored



Millionaire Labour candidate Barbara Follett enraged the locals by painting her door red to match her jackets, and trying to expand her garden

"She joined this library with a great flashing of cameras, it was a bit over-the-top really."

At the Two Diamonds pub, across the road from the Folletts, Hugh Beeton, 56, unemployed, is having a lunchtime pint. "I will vote Labour anyway, because I want to get the Tories out. But I'm not happy about that money coming in as a Labour candidate. What does she know about the people in Stevenage and their problems? Why does she need another house? She should have given it to the homeless."

His friend, George Filer, 60, a gardener and member of the local Labour Party, says: "The fact that she is rich is not doing her much cop. Personally, I wish she was more left-wing. But she's quite attractive for 50-old and she will make a good constituency M.P. even if it's not for the right reasons." Others, however, feel that Barbie and Ken have be-

stowed on Stevenage a welcome sparkle. "Barbara will add a touch of glamour," declares Jackie Mansfield, at the florist's opposite. "Goodness knows, Stevenage could do with a touch of Chelsea."

"She's a very pleasant woman. I think she will do well, people are impressed by her. She's not pushy. On Mother's Day she came in to the shop and said 'I'm sorry to

bother you, but would you mind making up some orders for me?' Then she sent flowers to quite a few people. I think she's very thoughtful."

Penny Samuels, waiting for her three children outside Barclay Comprehensive, says: "I don't mind if she comes from London, most of us do anyway. I don't even know what she looks like, but I'd vote Labour anyway, because

I'm sick of the Tories." "I like the sound of her," says Stuart Barnett, 26, landlord of the Yorkshire Grey pub, Mr Follett's local. "She hasn't been in politics too long so she's not tainted yet, she's a woman so she probably thinks more about other people than we do. So what, if she is a millionaire? Good for her for having made something of her life."

"But I will reserve judgment on her until she comes into this pub. The vast majority of our punters would not vote at all. They're all young people and they're too lackadaisical. They are on nine-to-five jobs, they earn £100 a week and they spend £95 on Friday and Saturday nights. If she came through this door and talked to a few kids she could get so many votes."

Tunku Varadarajan runs out of puff in the quest for tobacco Lament of a pipesmoker

BRITAIN'S pipesmokers are a serene fraternity. They puff up their private clouds of smoke, carve ceaselessly at the crust inside their pipes, light more matches a day than the very worst arsonists and sip their soothing whiskeys onto palates scarred by the constant burn of tobacco.

But this fumiferous pleasure — so self-possessed, so calm, so introspective — is now threatened by the violence of today's market practices. It is as if there were a conspiracy against the brotherhood of the briar: seven out of every ten London newsgents do not stock or sell pipe tobacco any more. I know this well, because these figures are the result of my own one-man-and-his-pipe survey.

Other pipesmokers have confirmed the cheerless findings of my four months of depressing research. A recently retired colleague — known for his well-chewed pipe, dwindling hair and temper short as a stub in an ashtray — fumed to me that his neighbourhood newsgent no longer kept anything but cigarettes on the tobacco shelves behind the till.

A sage, bearded colleague at *The Times*, who is an unflappable lunchtime companion of mine, talks wistfully of the days when flake and ready-rubbed were as common as red telephone boxes. An old Jamaican, by whose rumpied side I sit from time to time at *The Three Horseshoes*, frequently mourns the decline of the Mother Country — by which he means, of course, the disap-



Few shops now stock pipe tobacco

pearance from our streets and shops of good tobacco.

What is going on? Is there a dark plot to turn us all into smokers of cigarettes? Why have the normally diligent and solicitous Mr Patels of Britain's big cities — who take such care to ensure that their shops have every fizz-flavour of sweet drink, every gob-rot of chocolate, every manner of scented potato crisp, every brand of cigarette — stopped stocking pipe tobacco?

There is demand for it, why, at this

very moment, as you read this short lament, hundreds of restless men are wandering from shop to shop, with pipesmoking fingers crossed, in search of their packets of St Bruno, their tins of Balkan Sobranie, their Clan.

Yesterday I walked for a mile in Islington, north London, a down Upper Street, the Essex Road, a side street here and there — in search of Erinnore, the tobacco I have loved since my father first blew some in my face when I was a teenager. It is sold in vacuum-packed orange tins, lined with ruffled paper (as good tobacco should be), which one prizes open with the twist of a slim coin, but in Islington it is sold not at all.

"HAVE YOU any Erinnore?" I asked one overworked newsgent, then a second and a third. Each looked at me with puzzlement, as if I had asked for a daughter's hand in marriage. "No, sorry, don't do that. Don't do pipe tobacco. Try the next shop down the road, I think they have some, but I can't be sure." But the next shop never has any. The search is a futile one.

This is the time, then, for a virile campaign. Pipesmokers, you must unite and fight. Lobby your newsgent. Tell him what you want. Gesticulate energetically at him. Write to the country's pipe-tobacco suppliers, blow up a nimbus of ready-rubbed indignation. And if someone — anyone — dares tell you that your demands are dated, look him squarely in the eye and say: "Put that in your pipe and smoke it!"

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Get out of the pulpit, Mr Blair

Elizabeth Noel says religion and party politics do not mix

This Easter, the Labour leader, Tony Blair, revealed something of the powerful relationship between his religious beliefs and political conviction. He implied it was difficult to be both a sincere Christian and an honest Conservative. As someone proud to be both I find his arguments unconvincing and his conclusion patronising.

Mr Blair made it clear his views were entirely private: "I do not believe the Christians should only vote Labour; and I do not discuss my religious beliefs unless asked, and, when I do, I discuss them personally. Of course they influence my politics, but I do not wish to force them on anyone else."

Despite the protestation, the implication of his words was clear. He was a Socialist because he was a Christian, and his faith meant he could never be a Conservative. I am baffled by his belief that the two are so intertwined.

In all my conversations about the bread and butter of politics from taxation to education, with both friends and foes, I have never heard a single person mention the Bible, the Gospel, Jesus or religious faiths of any description. It is a blessed relief and one for which there is a simple explanation.

Politics is, by definition, worldly, temporal, pragmatic, opportunistic and, frankly, at times, embarrassing. Do we think that both Messrs Major and Blair always feel at their most virtuous thundering away at the dispatch box? I am sure they don't.

Politics is not a way of life, it is simply a part of it. Conversely, religious beliefs can govern the most important parts of our inner life but they cannot reveal where to put the cross in the polling booth. The Christian message is too complex and challenging to be reduced to political propaganda. Jesus, I suspect, would have made an appalling guest speaker at a new Labour rally. He would have made the same rather short speech at all political meetings: "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

But, not content just for his religious convictions to underpin his Socialism, it appears that Mr Blair believes it is his "duty" to become Prime Minister. "... There is a human impulse within, which can be fulfilled only through duty. For a politician this idea has important consequences. It means that you see the need for change around you and you accept your duty to do something."

Duty is a difficult concept in politics. No one, after all, is under any duty to become an MP — unless guilt impels you to believe in some patrician idea of noble obligation. Most people seek election not out of duty but because they believe that one political party is a more competent custodian of our country's needs and aspirations than the alternatives.

Mr Blair need not feel a duty to form a Labour government. Gordon Brown does not have a divine duty to impose a windfall tax. David Blunkett is not impelled by scripture to

abolish nursery vouchers, and Clare Short's desire to make the railways publicly owned and accountable is not an integral part of God's plan.

Of course, there is a place for Christian fellowship in the wider context of public life — and this fellowship extends beyond the Christian denominations. I am sure it is felt, briefly at least, during "prayers" which take place in private in the chamber at the beginning of every afternoon Parliament is sitting. Certainly, it is felt when we pray in our school assemblies and our religious congregations for our leaders to be blessed with fortitude, courage and wisdom. But we pray for peace, not Greenpeace. We pray for the end of suffering, not the League Against Cruel Sports. We pray for responsible government, not a particular government.

At the time of the last Labour leadership election I was attending Mass when the bidding prayers, fell, as usual, to a member of the congregation: "Let us pray," she intoned, "that the Labour Party chooses a suitable and unifying candidate in this week's important leadership election." I felt quite embarrassed as I am sure Mr Blair would have done had he been there. I would have felt equally ill-at-ease had she urged us to pray for the Government not to be defeated on the Fisheries Bill.

It is just one example but it does indicate how jarring it is to smuggle party politics into public worship. It is even more difficult to extrapolate a particular political message from a religious text.

In his article, Mr Blair reminds us of a speech in which Margaret Thatcher quoted St Paul: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." To this he offers his own interpretation: "Everyone had a duty to get on and work for the common good. To participate in the benefits, they had to give as well as to take." I agree with him. Who doesn't? Conservatives, he claims, without any evidence, "fail to look beyond to the community and the individual's relationship with the community," argues Mr Blair, without proving it. "That is the essential reason why I am on the Left rather than the Right." It is all no more than standard Labour propaganda dignified by association with the divine and all from a man who claims he "couldn't stand politicians who wear God on their sleeves."

Of course, Christians can be Conservative as well as Socialists. Still, how fortunate I will be to have the devout Mr Blair as my opponent at the next election. "Christianity," he reminds us, "is full of mercy and compassion." Since his religious beliefs play such a compelling role in his politics, I look forward to the Leader of the Opposition treating me with plenty of both.

Elizabeth Noel is the prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate for Sedgfield. She has worked for the Catholic Herald and in the psychology unit of HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs

The Tories are losing out to Labour on communicating with the electorate, says Woodrow Wyatt

Message for Major

While the election draws nearer, most polls still have the Tories no closer to denting Labour's lead. There was a faint flicker of hope in last Friday's Daily Telegraph Gallup poll. On the standard question, "if there was a general election tomorrow..." the Tories had risen by three points to 26 per cent but Labour had merely dropped two points to 55.5 per cent. Never since opinion polls were invented has there been so big a lead for so long for one party. Is the Tory message to blame, or is it the messengers delivering it?

On the BSE scare, the same Gallup poll asked: "Do you on the whole trust what ministers have to say or do you tend to be rather suspicious?" Eighty-six per cent, including 73 per cent of Tory supporters, said they were suspicious. Yet this is a painfully honest Government. Stephen Dorrell, instead of sticking to the safe proposition that there is no scientific evidence to link BSE to CJD, remarked that there were a few cases in which there might be a connection. It would not have been dishonest to have left out this speculation, which

certainly damaged the Government. But Tony Blair's blunder at the outset of the affair was far worse. He attacked the noble, sacred British beef and, in true communitarian fashion, supported Brussels in its ban on the export of British beef. Since then he has been back-tracking.

Mr Blair has seen dislike of Brussels's bullying rise to loathing. In 1992 the epidemic affected more than 35,000 cattle. Last year there were fewer than 15,000 cases. Up to March 15 this year the number reported and confirmed had dropped to 1,119, according to the Agriculture Ministry. Most European Union members have cattle with BSE. France has declared that a man has died of CJD through eating BSE-infected meat, but there is no ban on French beef.

We are in the realm of politics, not science. The Germans and French attack Britain over BSE, primarily

because it will not bow to their domination. If people thought logically, the overwhelming support for John Major's approach, as distinct from Mr Blair's, would translate itself into voting intentions. Perhaps the EU seems too distant and unreal to the great majority. This mood could well change decisively as Mr Major battles, with favourable publicity, to halt Britain's principal partners' drive to federalism and to remove, through subsidiarity, Brussels's interfering powers.

Brian Mawhinney, Conservative Party chairman, appears to command enthusiasm among his staff but cannot get his message across to voters. He wastes energy on circular attacks on Blair's "un-American activities", which only annoys Americans. He tangles with Blair on arcane aspects of theology, bemusing to a nation which thinks religion largely irrelevant to politics. Divisions

among the Tories are ending, strongly helped by Mr Major's pledge that in the unlikely event of a Tory government recommending a single European currency a referendum would be held first. Splits in the Labour Party widen. The revolt led by Kevin McNamara, former Labour Shadow Secretary for Northern Ireland, against the emergency strengthening of provisions against terrorism, was backed in a Commons division by 40 Labour MPs. Far more Labour MPs than Tories reflect anxiety among supporters about their official policy on the EU.

Labour's education policy has been so badly ripped apart that it is alarming that Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, had a nasty reception at the National Union of Teachers' conference for her sane policies on grammar schools.

That the most powerful teachers' union wants no selection should be fastened on by Dr Mawhinney.

On crime, Labour has voted against or abstained on all Michael Howard's tough measures, which have been backed by the general public — another area for Conservative Central Office to exploit. So is the ill-considered constitutional change planned by Mr Blair. Mr Major makes excellent speeches on the benefits of low inflation, ever cheaper goods and services, the continual rise in prosperity and falling unemployment. The media have been so biased against him that his positive points are obscured.

Dr Mawhinney's team should display them in large newspaper advertisements and on the hoardings emphasising that these successful policies were opposed by Labour. There need be no election before next spring. Despite grumbles, David Trimble's Unionists will not risk losing Mr Major who has so brilliantly put Sinn Féin and the IRA on the spot. There is just enough time for Dr Mawhinney to convert a potential disaster into a triumph.

History in the making

A state-of-the-art Royal Yacht could satisfy traditionalists and modernists

One of the hardest tasks for a nation is to balance its traditions against its future. Alan Bennett encapsulated it beautifully in his 1960s play *Forty Years On*, where the irritable young master puts on a debunking school play about casting off the fetters of national memory: Victorian values, Edwardian graces and wartime heroics. The old headmaster, played by John Gielgud with inspired fustiness, hates every minute of it. "Memories are not shackles, man!" he cries. "They are garlands!"

Bennett's brilliance lies in his ability to laugh at both sides of the argument. The rest of us, depending on the issue, tend to dig in and hammer home the earplugs, terrified to retreat from the one position where we feel safe. So you call down fury by suggesting that we modernise or scrap old ways, old laws, old buildings: on every issue from marriage to street lamps there is a version of the Victorian Society poised with a

sackful of sand to put paid to progress. On other matters you can attract furious contumely by even so much as glancing back to see whether our ancestors got some things right. When my husband first decided to farm with horses and antique machinery, to see what would happen, his postbag could be divided into embarrassing worship and furious, bitter scorn from agriculturalists, quite out of proportion to his 35 acres.

We fly off the handle very easily: whether about the rebuilding of Windsor Castle or whether or not children should use calculators. Yesterday Keith Waterhouse even wrote passionately about the death of "proper" Easter eggs with hand-grenade markings. Wait for the counterblast from Janet Street-Porter, advocating the radical Danish Hirst egg for today.

Maybe it is easier in countries whose heritage lies around them all the time, whether in the form of religion, gastronomy or just the siesta habit. Perhaps it is because Britain has changed very fast in this century that while some of us are frightened of going forward, others sense this resistance and are mortally afraid of being sucked back. So the heritage industry flourishes in all its banality while scientists and innovators fight their corner peevishly. Sunday papers alternate between breathless reports of new trends and mumbly, toothlessly over the Abidication crisis; politicians confusingly claim both the keys to a golden future and the heirloom to a golden past. Only

occasionally do we get a comforting sense of synthesis: say, a picture of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother taking Sarah Chatto's new baby in a carbon-fibre pushchair for a tour of the Cinque Ports (well, one can always dream).

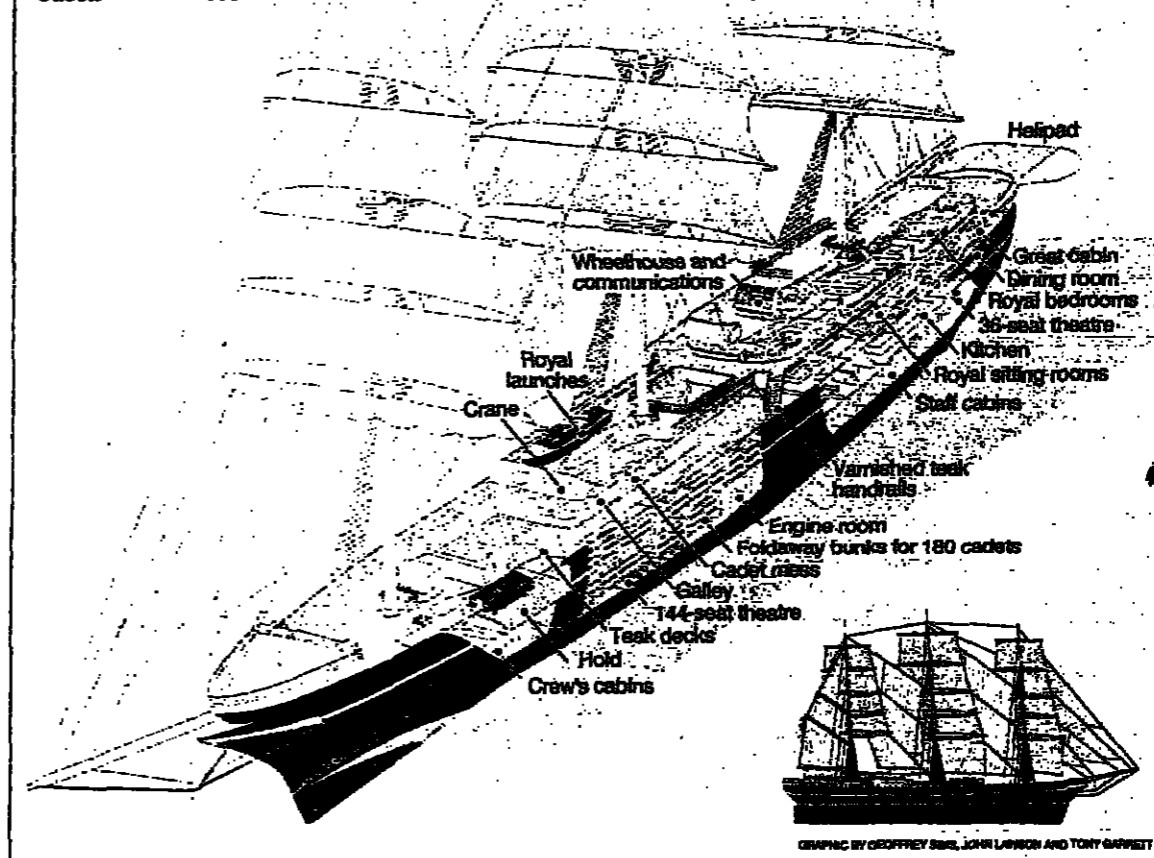
Yet this synthesis is the most desirable thing in the world. We cast off a lot of social shackles in the Sixties and Seventies, and revolutionised economic and working habits in the Eighties. In the Nineties there are signs that we are prepared to look more carefully at what constitutes a useless encrustation and what is an enriching part of national identity. Doctors take an interest in folk-medicine and old remedies (cobwebs, foxgloves and leeches have all found their way back into medicine). Wise farmers keep old breeds alive in case their genes may solve modern problems: BSE has, bitterly, brought home the desirability of glancing back at gentler stockmanship. Wise politicians remember to read history. And, just occasionally, a national scheme comes up which brings together past and present for a concerted, confident, joyful leap into the future. When that does happen it is vital to recognise it, and not to let it be snuffed by an understandable but unnecessary dread of retrospection. Today, the fear of being old-fashioned is itself rather dated.

The Government is facing one of these big ideas right now, in the proposed new Royal Yacht. All right, slam the newspaper down: I admit that the very act of typing the words "Royal Yacht" caused me to squirm. It is redolent of too many old shackles, too much fusty deference. Besides, this is a sailing ship; and for that reason, they say, the proposal is being opposed within the Cabinet by the Deputy Prime Minister, who fears it would look too old-fashioned to promote British products.

But listen for a moment: this proposal, backed by industry and led by the Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron (squire again), is in fact startlingly modern in the way it combines past and present. They prefer to call it "a ship for the nation": it has royal apartments, but also better theatres and audio-visuals than the old *Britannia*. It would serve British exporters not only in providing such export platforms but because Colin Mudge's design uses aggressively modern British materials and technology. Rather than the chagrin of nostalgic old soffies like myself, nobody is going to mistake this thing for *HMS Victory*: not only is it engineered as well as any modern ship, with a 25-knot top speed, but the

PLANS FOR A ROYAL YACHT

Specifications:
Length overall — 369 feet
Beam — 47.5 feet
Displacement — 3,500 tons
Speed: under engines — 20-25 knots
under sail — 10-15 knots
Crew — 40
Cadets — 180



How the new Royal Yacht could look: tradition and technology in tandem plus a role for Britain's youth

sails are computer-monitored, navigation and communications brand new, and it makes wide use of the newest fibre-reinforced composites used in modern lifeboats.

These things may partly reassure Mr Heseltine, but the silhouette of those tall romantic masts and square sails still could prove a sticking-point. It did for the *Times* reader who, when we first floated the idea, demanded that the Queen should have a state-of-the-art aluminium trimaran, "a Concorde on water". Fair point: but these futuristic shapes have a way of looking horribly dated within ten years. When the first *Britannia* was built, it was not on contemporary 1950s lines but on those of the 1930s: that is why she is such a classic and still draws gasps all over the world. A Concorde trimaran would soon draw yuckers, like the first-series model of the Starship Enterprise.

But why go right back to the age of sail? The Cadland consortium offers several reasons, the least of which is that frankly, a £63-million motorboat is not very impressive next to a super-

yacht, but a tall ship dominates any harbour (the Italian presidential yacht, far smaller, does it with great panache). Another small reason is that those who study shipping are convinced that over the next few decades some use of modern sail will return on ocean routes, simply because of fuel costs. Sail is not yet obsolete.

The main reason which should sway the Cabinet is quite different. A sailing ship needs people. A lot of people, working together with discipline and in harmony. The ship could motor anywhere, in emergency; its security has been designed by a Rear-Admiral, David Bawtree, who advises the Home Office. In those depressingly modern ways it should be well up to snuff.

But to man its yards and haul its lines it would need more than technology. It would need the nation's and the Commonwealth's youth. It would be manned around the year by 180 "Queen's Cadets"

from every background imaginable. These boys and girls, 3,500 of them a year, would have graduated through our rich network of sail training ships, would serve a short period aboard, and never forget it.

Nor would onlookers. We would be showing the world (and ourselves) that the wealth and hope of the nation lies not only in its industry and commerce, in the banks which financed the ship and the salesmen who use it, but in its next generation. It would demonstrate that the Queen — inheritor of the most ancient, pompous and encrusted of traditions — rejoices in her young crew and trusts them as she trusts the fibre-reinforced deck beneath her feet and the British computers on the bridge.

That, not any "heritage" prettiness, is the point of a sailing Royal Yacht. That is the synthesis between old technology and new, between our history and the nation we want to be. It is conservative and socialist, ancient and modern, royal and democratic. It is a happy idea. Give it a chance.

Angel dust-up

THE BIGGEST names in theatre will be jostling for space at Sir Robert Stephens's memorial service in St James's, Piccadilly, later this month. But there will be one notable absentee: Dame Maggie Smith. Sir Robert's third wife, has said she cannot attend: she will be "on holiday."

Suggestions that she is boycotting the event because Sir Robert's



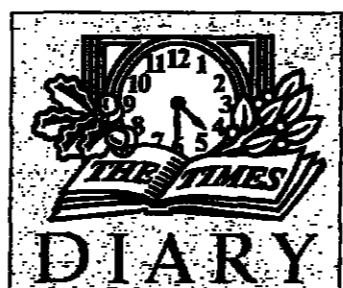
Early days: Maggie and Robert

widow, the actress Patricia Quinn, plans to invite the sweaty pop singer Meat Loaf to perform at the ceremony are denied by her thespian friends. (Sir Robert believed that Meat Loaf, who secured his place in British hearts with his nerve-jangling *Bat Out of Hell*, had the voice of an angel.)

Patricia confirms, however, that the Dame has sent her regrets. "I said she could do anything she liked at the ceremony — perform, or give a talk or anything," she says. "But she replied that she was going to be on holiday."

Dame Maggie's absence will be noted, although there are hopes of a lesser-known actor attending. The Prince of Wales, who played Prince Hal in *Henry IV Part 1* with Sir Robert for a recording of Shakespeare's classics, asked Patricia Quinn to join him with friends such as Stephen Fry and Tom Stoppard at Sandringham for a recent weekend. And I've no doubt that, in return, he has received his invitation to the service.

Camilla Parker Bowles is said to be spending Easter in Portugal as



a guest of the Marquess of Douro, son of the Duke of Wellington. Meals could be tricky — a friend of mine who stayed there was served up a local speciality: fried garlic and orange peel for breakfast.

Sounding off

DIFFICULT though it has been to pin this story down, I feel obliged to share what I have been told about Sunday Panty, yoga instructor, Panty, 47, was in Madrid recently taking part in a conference titled Controlling the Temper. He had just assumed an advanced yoga position, his legs behind his head, when Nature's trumpet sounded.

The suppressed giggles from the audience proved too much for the warrior in Panty. Unknowing him-

self, he flew into the crowd. "All hell broke loose," said an observer. "Panty went bananas, shouting 'control is all' and then everyone else joined in." Seventeen delegates to the conference were arrested.

Wilson's secret

NEW YORK churchgoers over the Easter weekend were let in on an intriguing disclosure about British political history in the 1960s: Harold Wilson secretly encouraged the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, to call for force to be used against UDA supporters in Rhodesia, even though he knew that his Cabinet had already decided against it.

As soon as the Archbishop made his controversial speech, media-led thunderclaps erupted over Lambeth Palace and Ramsey was lacerated in political circles. There was little in the way of support from Wilson's Downing Street.

Ramsey the night before the speech and encouraged him to make those remarks. I took the call," Ben Pimlott, Wilson's biographer, did not know of the PM's involvement: "But it sounds typical of Downing Street at the time — to have Wilson speaking with a forked tongue."

Reports yesterday of the Queen's exclamation "Bloody fire", on seeing the blaze which sent polo ponies stampeding over the weekend, brings to mind the experience of a recent visitor to Windsor Castle.



"The more you look at it, the more it looks like 'Tony'"

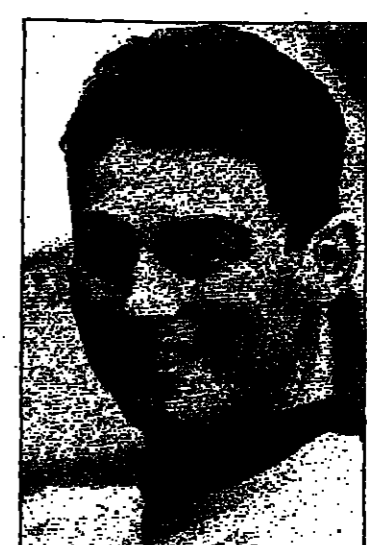
Meeting the Queen as she perused the newspapers before breakfast, he noticed that she was reading a story headlined "Queen Furious about Charles". Spotting her guest, Her Majesty looked up and sighed. "Well, I see I'm furious again."

Eton strut

BRITAIN'S well-born young women are already well represented among top fashion models by the likes of Stella Tennant, granddaughter of the Duke of Devonshire, and Honor Fraser, sister of Lord Lovat. Now catwalk life beckons for one of the boys.

William Sinclair, 24, grandson of Sir Archibald Sinclair, Air Minister during the Second World War, and cousin of Lord Thurso, has been snapped up to model for Versace. A scout for the American photographer Bruce Weber spotted Sinclair while staying at 11 Cadogan Gardens, the elegant Chelsea hotel where he is a manager.

Though one of the finest players of the Wall Game in his generation at Eton, Sinclair was sceptical initially. He was won over when promised that he would be working with top supermodels, not least Kate Moss. "I thought I might as



William Sinclair: catwalk daze

well give in at that point," he says. Sinclair's modelling career, however, has already got off to one start. Last year he was asked to star in a campaign for Hugo Boss by a mink-clad Ethiopian woman in a Sloane Square bar. Sadly, the offer came to nothing.

P.H.S



COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 8: The Prince of Wales today visited Fife and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine).

His Royal Highness this morning visited the Forth Bridge, North Queensferry, and was briefed on the current programme of repairs.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, afterwards visited the Foyer Project in the old West Bridge Mill, Bridge Street, Kirkcaldy, and saw an exhibition of the work of the Trust

with young people in Fife. His Royal Highness, President, Scottish Business in the Community, this afternoon visited the Trust Community Centre, Abbeyview Estate, Dunfermline, and met members of the local community and business leaders who are setting up a programme of practical support for the estate.

The Prince of Wales later visited Culross and toured the Abbey Church and National Trust for Scotland properties, including the Study and Culross Palace.

Today's royal engagements

Prince Edward, as Patron of Haddo Arts Trust, will attend the first night of the Haddo House Choral and Operatic Society's 50th anniversary production of *Othello* at Haddo House Hall, Aberdeenshire, at 7.00.

Lord Cooke of Thorndon

The life barony conferred upon the Right Hon Sir Robin Brunsell Cooke, KBE, has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Cooke of Thorndon, of Wellington in New Zealand and of Cambridge in the County of Cambridgeshire.

Olivier's gift to Leigh for auction

A painting Laurence Olivier gave to his wife Vivien Leigh as a love token two years after they married in 1940 is expected to sell for about £20,000 at Sotheby's in London on May 16.

Vivien Leigh was then at the height of her fame after winning an Oscar as Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone With the Wind*. Olivier bought the picture, *A Farewell to Mayo* by Jack Butler Yeats, in a selling exhibition at the National Gallery.

Church of Scotland

Retirements
The Rev Jack Mitchell from Mendishill, Dundee.
The Rev William Shackleton from Welpack West, Greenock.

Today's birthdays

Mr Severiano Ballesteros, golfer, 39; Lord Justice Simon Brown, 59; Mr Eric Clarke, MP, 63; Sir Brian Cubbon, civil servant, 68; Lord Deramore, 85; Mr Iain Duncan Smith, MP, 42; the Most Rev Domenico Enrie, former Apostolic Nuncio, 87; Mr Robson Fisher, former Headmaster, Bryanston School, 75; Lord Fitt, 70; Viscount Gage, 62; Miss Hannah Gordon, actress, 55.
Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, Lord-Lieutenant of East Lothian, 70; Mr Roger Harrison, chairman, Toybee Hall, 63; Sir Graham Hills, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Strathclyde University, 70; Mr Eric Illsley, MP, 41; Mr Tom Jackson, trade unionist, 71; the Hon Bernard Jenkin, MP, 37; Mr Neil Jenkins, MP, 51; Mr Alan Knott, cricketer, 50; Mr Tom Lehrer, lecturer and songwriter, 68; Mr Martin Margiela, fashion

designer, 42; Mr Peter Moores, former chairman, Littlewoods Organisation, 64; Mr Vincent O'Brien, racehorse trainer, 79; Sir Michael Ogden, QC, 70; Sir Michael Palliser, former Head of the Diplomatic Service, 74; Mr Carl Perkins, rock singer and guitarist, 64; Sir Michael Richardson, former chairman, Smith New Court, 71; Professor K.G. Robbins, senior Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, 56; Mr Martin Rogers, former Chief Master, King Edward's School, Birmingham, 65; Miss Valerie Singleton, broadcaster, 59; Mr Michael Somare, CH, first Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, 60; Professor D.H. Walker, QC, 76; Mr B.H. Weston, former chairman, Manweb, 66; Mr Frank Yardley, racehorse trainer, 53; Miss Frieda Young, diplomat, 83; Sir Richard Young, industrialist, 82.



Patricia Restall of High Pitfold, Hindhead, Surrey, driving out in fine style through Battersea Park yesterday

On parade in the park

BIG crowds watched as the London Harness Horse Parade yesterday celebrated its return to Battersea Park with a perfect day. The parade, an amalgamation of the London Cart Horse Parade and the London Van Horse Parade, came back last year to Battersea where the first cart horse parade was held on Whit Monday, 1885. The van horse parade started in 1904 and had a record number of exhibits—1,259—in 1914. For many years both parades were held in Regent's Park. After the Second World War entries declined and the parades amalgamated in 1966. Horses, ponies, owners and drivers turned out in good numbers yesterday.



Rowena McDermott takes the reins of Dolly and Violet, two percherons, pulling a Shand Mason steam fire engine built for Lord Shaftesbury in 1908

Scottish Episcopal Church

Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney
Eleanor Morson has been ordained deacon at St Olaf's, Kirkwall. She takes up a non-stipendiary post as Assistant Deacon at St Olaf's.

Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness
Heather Susan Widdows has been ordained deacon at St Maclurubha's, Poolewe. She is appointed Honorary Assistant Deacon at St Maclurubha's.

Diocese of St Andrew, Dunblane and Dunblane
John Malcolm Richardson, Canon of St Ninian's Cathedral and previously Rector of St Mary's Newport-on-Tay, is now Rector of St John's, Forfar.

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway
Alexander Montgomery has been ordained priest in St Andrew's, Ayr. Mr Montgomery is now Honorary Assistant Curate

(NS) at St Andrew's Irvine and St Andrew's Ardrossan. Appointments
Jim Bale has been granted a warrant to officiate in the diocese (NS).
Alan G. Boyd, previously assistant priest at St John's Greenock, is now assistant priest (NS) at St Barnabas and Holy Trinity, Paisley.

Resignation
John Bain Peruman, former curate at St Ninian's Pollockshields, has resigned and moved to Christ the Saviour, Ealing, Fulham Diocese.

Church news

Appointments

Canon Trevor McCabe, Vicar, Marston w St Anthony-in-Meneage (Truro); to be Archdeacon of Cornwall, same diocese.
The Very Rev Robert Jeffery, Dean of Worcester, is to be Canon Residentiary and Sub-Dean of the Cathedral Church of Christ Church, Oxford, succeeding the Right Rev Ronald Gordon, who resigns in September 1996.
The Very Rev Trevor Beeson, formerly Dean of Winchester, to be Dean Eborac.

Greater Corsham (Bristol). The Rev Peter Law, Vicar, Chichester, to be Vicar, Linton, St Hugh, Lewsey (St Albans).
The Rev Stephen Mather, Team Vicar, St Nicholas, Sutton, to be Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Abingdon, St James and Elizabeth, Bickershaw (Liverpool).
The Rev Brian McQuillen, Vicar, Gloucester, St George (Gloucester); to be Vicar, St Martin w East and West Loze (Truro).
The Rev Kevin O'Donnell, permission to officiate, diocese of Oxford, to be Chaplain at Heathfield School, Ascot, same diocese.

The Rev Richard Peckham, Vicar, Ilfracombe Team Ministry; to be Vicar, Sid Valley Team Ministry (Exeter).
The Rev Colin Pope, Vicar, St Luke, Orrell, to be Vicar, Emmanuel, Southport (Liverpool).
The Rev David Pritchard, Vicar, Marcham w Garford and Rural Dean of Abingdon; to be Rector, St Mary's, Henley on Thames (Oxford).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Harold Coddington-Clarke, Vicar, St John, Blindley Heath (Southwark); to retire October 23.
The Rev Thomas Collier-White, Priest-in-charge, Church of St James (London); to resign August 13.

The Rev Norman Davies, Vicar, St Mark w St Margaret, Plumstead (Southwark); to retire May 1.
Canon Jeremy Harrold, Vicar, and Rural Dean of Stowmarket, and an Honorary Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich); to retire October 1.

The Rev Frank Potter, Priest-in-charge, Badwell Ash (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich); to retire September 30.

University news

Reading

New research grants and contracts accepted by the members of the departments named include the following:

Dr A Basu (Economics), £86,590 from the Economic and Social Research Council - South Asian entrepreneurship in Britain: determinants and dynamics.

Professor G M Meeson (Computer Science), £116,317 from the EPSRC - systolic and regular array composition environment (Saracen).

Professor M J Baines (Mathematics), £141,260 from the EPSRC - multi-dimensional upwinding and grid adaptation for conservation laws at the ICED.

Dr B L Evans (Physics), £73,444 from the EPSRC - a regular array of nanometre sized magnetic particles and its role in thin film magneto electronic devices.

Professor G N Fisher (Construction Management & Engineering), £191,112 from the EPSRC - a clients' project definition tool.

Dr J P Wann (Psychology), £245,230 from the EPSRC - level of detail in interactive 3D environments to enable effective database traversal.

Professor K A Browning and Professor A J Thorpe (Meteorology), £108,257 from the NERC - deep tropopause folding and its relationship to severe weather.

Dr P J Valdes (Meteorology), £105,025 from the NERC - modelling climatic change during the last glacial/interglacial cycle.

From other bodies:
Professor F P McKenna (Psychology), £147,127 from the Automobile Association - men and women car drivers - their role in key accident factors.

Dr D C Mason (Environmental System Science Centre - Geography), £94,994 from the British National Space Centre - intertidal elevation models using satellite data.

Ms N Garnett (Construction Management & Engineering), £168,115 from the Department of the Environment - cost of ownership through integrated logistic support for construction.

Professor G N Fisher (Construction Management & Engineering), £126,082 from the Department of the Environment - Link (IDA): a clients' project definition tool.

Mr C G Guy and Dr J R Miles (Engineering) with the Teaching Company Centre, £80,120 from the Department of Trade and Industry's Teaching Company Scheme.

Dr R Davies and Mr J G Brennan (Food Science and Technology) with the Teaching Company Centre, £152,460 from the Department of Trade and Industry's Teaching Company Scheme.

Professor A Swinbank (Agricultural Economics and Management), £86,080 from the European Commission - quality policy and consumer behaviour.

Professor M Coleman (Postgraduate Research Institute for Sedimentology), £71,202 from the European Commission - quantitative risk prediction of carbon scale in HP/HT hostile hydrocarbon reservoirs for best practice production management.

Dr S A Booth (Economics), £138,334 from the European Commission Tempus (Taxis) - creation of model centre for agricultural enterprise and revisions of economics courses.

Dr J M Ames (Food Science and Technology), £71,202 from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food - Link agro-food quality: cooked potato aroma and texture.

Professor C J Garforth (Agricultural Extension and Rural Development), £85,000 from Natural Resources Institute - support to the Institute of Natural Resources for Institutional Development (Republic of South Africa).

Professor J D H Keatinge (Agriculture), £29,190 from the Overseas Development Administration - Hillside systems programme - adaptability of cover crops.

Professor P G Whitehead (Geography), £73,500 from Thames Water Utilities Ltd - environmental impact studies on the River Kennet.

Dr J Bignell (English), £135,167 from the British Academy - BBC Wednesday Play - research fellowship.

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Prize the Lord, for he is good:
Prize the Lord, for he is good, for that is pleasing.
Psalm 135: 3

BIRTHS

BAKTER - On March 22nd, to Alison (née Green) and Jonathan, a daughter, Emily Charlotte Lund.

BECKTON - To Juliet (née Penman) and David, at the Rose Maternity Hospital, on 30th March 1996, a daughter, Martha Grace, a sister for Jessica.

CLARKE - Martin and Frances (née Layton), give thanks to God for the birth of their daughter Verity Sophie Layton, a sister for Eleanor on 26th March 1996.

CLARKE/BOWE - On 4th April 1996, to Sally and Steve, a daughter, Ella Sophie, a sister for Nina.

HARRIS - On March 14th 1996, at The Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion, Edinburgh, to Christina (née Brooke) and Richard, a son, Samuel James Harris.

ROSS STEWART - On Good Friday, to Caroline (née Tick) and Charles, a daughter, Emily Elizabeth Ross, a sister for William.

WADDINGTON - On 1st April, to Victoria (née Giddens) and David, a son, Dominic Edward James, a brother for Samuel.

DEATHS

ABEL-SMITH - Brian, Professor at London School of Economics, after a short illness, on 4th April 1996. Dear brother of Lionel and beloved by all his many friends and colleagues. Cremation at Golders Green. Flowers only please. Crematorium, near Ashford, Kent on Friday 12th April at 3.15 pm. Enquiries to J.H. Kenyon Ltd, tel: 01711 836-4624. Memorial service at 12.15 pm. Enquiries to J.H. Kenyon Ltd, tel: 0114 2949222.

BUTLER - Edward Charles (29th March 1907 - 1st April 1996). Died on April 1st, peacefully, after a short illness, at home, 11, Tiverton, Devon. Dear husband of Dorothy, good father and grandfather of Philip, Nick, Fiona and Leo.

CHALKE - On 1st April 1996, in Salisbury Hospital, after a short illness, Mary aged 75 years of Mary, wife of David and mother of James and John. Funeral service at 11.15 am at Salisbury Cathedral. Enquiries to H. Hill & Sons, Tel: 01747 460 361.

CHRISTIE - On Saturday 6th April 1996, at the age of 96, Lucie Catherine, daughter of the late T.P. LeFanu of County Wick, Ireland, widow of J.T. Christie, sometime Head Master of Repton and Westminster and Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, mother of Catherine, Porteous and Jane. Burial at Repton. Flowers only please. Funeral at 11.15 am at Repton. Enquiries to H. Hill & Sons, Tel: 01747 460 361.

DYSON - Peacefully in hospital on Friday 6th April 1996, at the age of 75 years. Most dearly loved husband of Mary, loving father of Paul, Terence and Anthony. Very dear father-in-law and loved and treasured grandpa. Also a dear brother. Burial at 11.15 am at St Helen Church on Wednesday April 10th at 7 pm. Repton. Flowers only please. Crematorium, near Ashford, Kent on Friday 12th April at 3.15 pm. Enquiries to J.H. Kenyon Ltd, tel: 01711 836-4624. Memorial service at 12.15 pm. Enquiries to J.H. Kenyon Ltd, tel: 0114 2949222.

ESSLEMONT - On March 29th, Nancy (née Staines) Middlemas, died peacefully in Ashford Hospital. Funeral service to be held at 10.30 am at St Mary's Church, Duddingston on Friday 12th April at 12 noon, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired to St Wilfrids Hospice, Eastbourne. Enquiries to H. Hill & Sons, Tel: 01747 460 361.

GODDARD-JACKSON - Frank, peacefully at home on 4th April 1996. Funeral service and interment at St Mary's Church, Duddingston on Friday 12th April at 12.30 pm.

MONTAGU DOUGLAS SCOTT - On 4th April, Rachel widow of Lord William Montagu Douglas Scott and daughter of 13th Earl of Howe. Sudden and peacefully at home. Funeral service at 12.30 pm on Wednesday, 10th April at Holy Trinity Church, Molesey, Surrey. Private. On Thursday.

MORRIS - On 8th April peacefully at home, Michael Frederick aged 83 years. Dearest husband of Sue and loving father of Nicola and Richard. Burial at 11.15 am at St Mary's Church, Duddingston on Friday 12th April at 12.30 pm.

VAUGHAN - Mary, on 8th April, daughter of the late Mrs Hilda Vaughan of 11, St Mary's R.C. Church, Duddingston. Burial at 11.15 am at St Mary's Church, Duddingston on Friday 12th April at 12.30 pm.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE
Perfect - Christopher T. died 8th April 1994 aged 47. Forever loved and thought of by his wife, son and mother.

BIRTHDAYS
WARRICKSON, Shirley, Dear Mum, Happy 80th Birthday. Wishing you health, wealth, and happiness. All our love. Shirley & Stephen Warrickson.

MURRAY - Geoffrey Noel (29th March 1907 - 1st April 1996). Died on April 1st, peacefully, after a short illness, at home, 11, Tiverton, Devon. Dear husband of Dorothy, good father and grandfather of Philip, Nick, Fiona and Leo.

ORTON - Maria, widow of Ernest (ex K.A.R.) on 3rd April in Harare. Loving mother and grandmother of Teresa, Sandra and John and their families. Funeral in Harare followed by Memorial and interment of ashes in Ireland.

PEEL - On March 19th 1996, Elizabeth Mary (Betty) wife of George Frederick Peel. Cremation has taken place.

FOR SALE
THE TIMES - 1991-1995 year book available for purchase. Free information write to: CHA (001), Freeport, London. WCB8 622.

YOUNG CHURCH BRIDGE Club and school (10.42 am arrival). Tel: 0171 375 1665

ANNOUNCEMENTS
THE ANNUAL General Meeting of the Royal Society of Medicine will be held in the House of Commons on Friday 10th April 1996 at 10.30 am and will be preceded by a luncheon at 1.15 pm. The meeting will be held in the House of Commons on Friday 10th April 1996 at 10.30 am and will be preceded by a luncheon at 1.15 pm. The meeting will be held in the House of Commons on Friday 10th April 1996 at 10.30 am and will be preceded by a luncheon at 1.15 pm.

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PALM

NEWS

Left defeats NUT plan for reform

Militant teachers inflicted a devastating defeat on moderates trying to extend democracy in Britain's biggest teaching union when they threw out "one member, one vote" reforms limiting the powers of branches and the national conference.

Leaders of the National Union of Teachers had proposed automatic ballots on conference decisions in a package reminiscent of Tony Blair's "new Labour" reforms. But every element was voted down in a humiliating rebuff for Doug McAvoy, the general secretary. Page 1, 2

Plastic bullets fired at rioting loyalists

Riot police opened fire with plastic bullets after loyalists in Belfast attacked the RUC with petrol bombs. In the most serious rioting since last summer an elderly woman had a heart attack as police clashed with 1,000 loyalists. Page 1

Mackay visit

The Lord Chancellor is to make an unprecedented visit to Strasbourg next month to seek backing from other countries for curbs on the European Court of Human Rights. Page 1

School terror

A primary school headmistress told of a campaign of intimidation, including arson, waged against her after she identified youths who broke into a teacher's car. Page 1

Spelling problem

The decline in writing skills among teenagers detected in a new study has fuelled the debate among educationists about modern teaching methods. Page 2

Blair welcome

Tony Blair's arrival in Washington later this week is generating more interest — and noticeably more positive coverage — in the US media than the Prime Minister's regular visits do. Page 2

DNA heredity test

A Welsh car worker plans to apply to a court to exhumate the body of a distinguished aristocrat for DNA testing in an attempt to prove that he is the man's illegitimate grandson. Page 3

Brawl victim

A man aged 60 who collapsed as he tried to rescue his daughter from a roadside brawl died from a heart attack. Page 4

Modern funerals go with a swing

Pop songs and theme tunes are increasingly supplementing hymns at funerals. The trend is well established in churches as well as crematoriums, where one of the top ten tunes is *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*. Other family favourites range from Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You* to the theme from the Australian soap opera *Home and Away*. Page 4

Viscount farewell

One of the last three Vickers Viscount airliners is being prepared for a final trip from Heathrow, where the first of its type began commercial service more than 40 years ago. Page 6

Millennium delay

The Vatican said that grandiose plans for celebrating the millennium in Rome in under four years were in "total disarray" because of delays. Page 7

Brando outburst

Marlon Brando launched a bitter and unexpected attack on Jews in Hollywood, accusing them of exploiting ethnic stereotypes in films. Page 8

Taxpayers' revolt

The failure of America to pay its billion-dollar debt to the United Nations has sparked a citizens' revolt. Page 8

Civil war spreads

Fighting in Liberia between government troops and supporters of a warlord was spreading as thousands of people sought refuge in diplomatic compounds. Page 9

Chinese Easter

The sound of voices singing *Jin Zhao Ji Du Zan Fu Sheng* ("Christ the Lord is risen today") echoed in the streets of Wenzhou, where a religious revival appears to be taking place in a city that saw some of the worst violence of Cultural Revolution. Page 9



Apprentice Boy marchers facing police during clashes in Belfast when demonstrators were refused entry to a nationalist area. Page 1

BUSINESS

Wall Street woe: Shares in New York fell more than 100 points, prompting a temporary suspension of dealings. Traders were responding to buoyant US employment figures, released on Good Friday, that suggested interest rates were unlikely to be cut. Page 36

China chance: Airbus Industrie is on the verge of selling nearly £1 billion of aircraft in China, guaranteeing large orders and jobs for British Aerospace. Page 36

Blair's brief: Tony Blair will address US businessmen and meet Wall Street investment chiefs during a three-day visit. Page 36

SFO returns: Showpiece fraud trials will return to the Old Bailey as part of the radical reform of the Serious Fraud Office. Page 36

SPORT

Football: Manchester United confirmed their place at the top of the Premiership with a 1-0 win over Coventry City. Page 19

Rugby league: Danny Arnold scored twice to take his try tally to nine in three matches as high-flying St Helens sent Leeds crashing to their third defeat in the Super League. Page 23

Racing: Ireland's Feathered Gale made the most of his finishing speed to out-sprint Yorkshire-based challenger, Jodami, in the closing stages to win the Irish Grand National. Page 25

Snooker: Nigel Bond captured his first world-ranking event when he beat John Higgins on the black in a memorable British Open final at Plymouth. Page 19

ARTS

Singing ambassador: Anne Sofie von Otter is a mezzo with a message. She wants to bring the songs of Sweden to the attention of the world. Page 10

Italian masters: Concerto Italiano makes an impressive debut at the Aldeburgh Early Music Festival in a programme of Monteverdi's madrigals. Page 10

Art of the Empire: The National Portrait Gallery's new exhibition looks at how Livingstone and other Victorians managed to grapple with the mysteries of Africa. Page 11

New art shows: The delicate paintings of Avis Newman and the eye-catching sculpture of Alison Wilding are going on show in London. Page 11

REVIEWS

Disease fear: The agony of knowing that Huntington's disease runs in the family. Page 12

Chest test: The chest discomfort suffered by the 21-year-old Oxford stroke probably stemmed from breathlessness. But for someone older or unfit, it can have a more sinister connotation. says Dr Thomas Stuttaford. Page 12

Homeseeker: Will forsaking two expensive homes for a three-up, two-down cottage help millionaire Barbara Follet in her third attempt to win a Labour seat? Page 13

Smoked out: The vileness of today's market practices is threatening Britain's pipemakers, a serene and self-possessed fraternity immersed in quiet contemplation. Tunku Varadarajan sends up urgent smoke signals. Page 13

LAW

Quiet, please: Noisy neighbours are one of the most stressful problems for householders and can lead to violence and even murder. But help is on the way. Page 29

THE PAPERS

Our biases, clearly, are against physician-assisted suicide. Our deeper conviction, however, is that this matter, touching the taproot of society, resides most properly inside the democratic workings of our legislative process, not with judge-made law. Page 29

TOMORROW

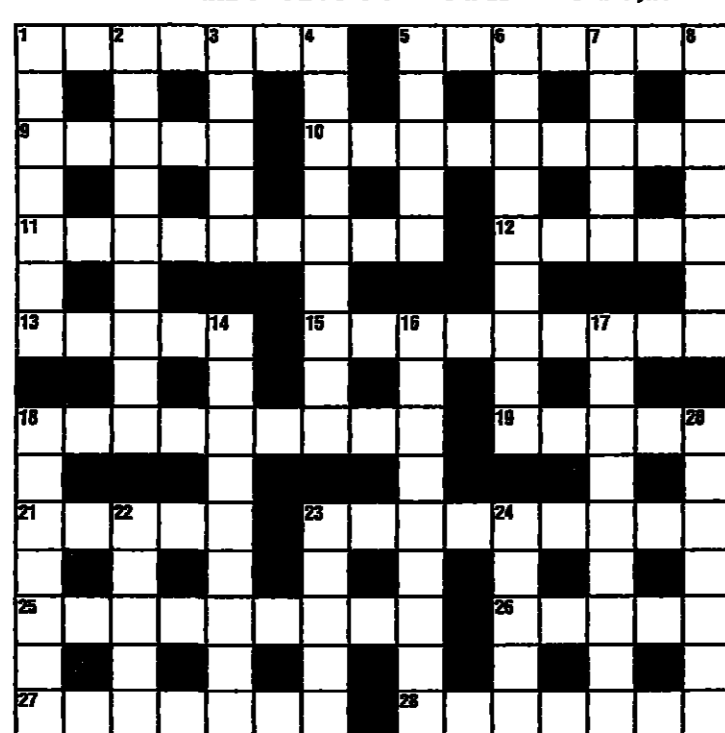
IN THE TIMES

FASHION
Buttoned up: Iain R. Webb on this summer's dress and where to find the best

INTERFACE
Your chance to win one of three mobile offices in our weekly guide to new technology

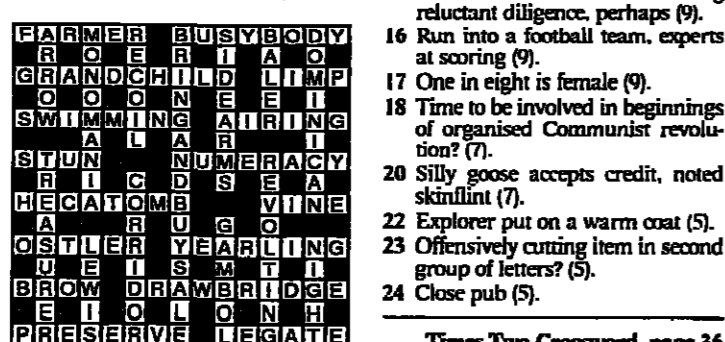


THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,137



- ACROSS
- You're always yearning for style (7).
 - Keep part of this dialect version? (7).
 - Herries one of those with picture in gallery collection (5).
 - Fellows return to inform on Club member (9).
 - Wild, unlike Bianca's sister (9).
 - Proportional representation? (5).
 - Long to be nameless for long time (5).
 - A foreign hatred, without love, accepted by all (9).
 - Well spaced-out arrangement for sesame? (4,5).
 - Gets striker out in divided part of England (5).
 - Head in charge of subject (5).
- DOWN
- Judge joining you, say, in a drink? Witness shouldn't do that! (7).
 - Trial for dark horse (9).
 - Pick conservative paper (5).
 - English given surprise about book, like *A Passage to India* (9).
 - Bay leaf initially included as spice (5).
 - Girl supporting fierce person, one prominent in plot (5,4).
 - Mild expletive about female's plan (5).
 - Catches girls hiding ring (7).
 - Person behind the times showing reluctant diligence, perhaps (9).
 - Run into a football team, experts at scoring (9).
 - One in eight is female (9).
 - Time to be involved in beginnings of organised Communist revolution? (7).
 - Silly goose accepts credit, noted skunkdirt (7).
 - Explorer put on a warm coat (5).
 - Offensively cutting item in second group of letters? (5).
 - Close pub (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,136



Times Two Crossword, page 36

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
North East	702
North West	703
Yorkshire & the Humber	704
West Midlands	705
East Midlands	706
East of England	707
South East	708
South West	709
Wales & the South Wales Coast	710
West Wales & the South Wales Coast	711
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West Wales & the South Wales Coast	728
West Wales & the South Wales Coast	729
West Wales & the South Wales Coast	730

Weathercall is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
Essential Here, Bedfordshire/Berkshire/Chen	733
Kent/Surrey/Essex/Herts	734
M25 London Orbital only	735
National traffic and roadworks	736
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
East Anglia	740
North West England	741
North West England	742
North West England	743
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North West England	755
North West England	756
North West England	757
North West England	758
North West England	759
North West England	760

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.10 am Sun sets: 7.48 pm
Moon sets: 10.08 am Moon rises: 1.02 am

Last quarter (tomorrow)
London 7.48 pm to 8.15 am
Bristol 7.57 pm to 8.25 am
Edinburgh 8.08 pm to 8.30 am
Manchester 7.51 pm to 8.20 am
Perthshire 8.07 pm to 8.30 am

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be mostly dry with bright or sunny spells. There may be isolated fog patches at first in the South East. It will be warm in the east. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be generally dry with sunny spells, but southwest Scotland may be cloudier with patchy drizzle. Breezy.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N: isolated mist and fog patches, then dry with sunny spells. Wind light south or southwest. Max 14C (57F).

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, N Ireland: mostly dry, bright or sunny spells. Wind southerly, moderate or fresh. Max 14C (57F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: dry, sunny spells. Wind south or southwest, light to moderate. Max 16C (61F).

SW Scotland: cloudy, patchy drizzle. Wind southerly, moderate to fresh. Max 15C (59F).

Gloucestershire, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney: mostly dry. Wind southerly moderate to fresh. Max 14C (57F).

Shetland: rain or drizzle, dying out. Wind south or southwest, moderate. Max 10C (50F).

Outlook: dry start, rain spreading across all parts from the South West.

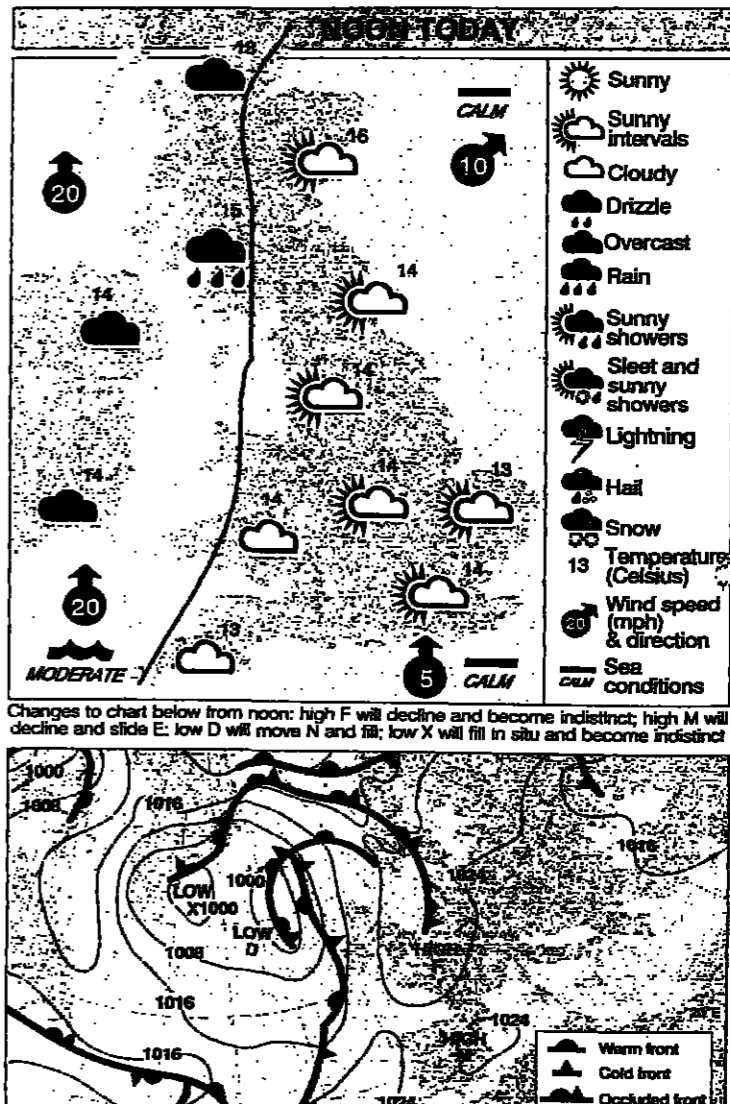
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	4.8	0.02	13	5.5	1	35
Anglesey	10.4	0.01	10	5.0	1	50
Ayr	4.8	0.01	14	5.7	1	45
Belfast	3.5	0.01	16	6.1	1	57
Birmingham	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Bristol	8.5	1.0	15	6.9	1	52
Bournemouth	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Cardiff	10.7	1.0	12	14	1	54
Colwyn Bay	7.9	1.0	10	5.0	1	50
Exeter	8.1	1.0	10	5.0	1	50
Falmouth	7.9	1.0	10	5.0	1	50
Gloucester	3.8	0.09	16	6.1	1	57
Harrogate	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Hastings	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Hemel Hempstead	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Hertford	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Hove	7.7	1.0	16	6.1	1	57
Leeds	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Leicester	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
London	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Manchester	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Nottingham	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Sheffield	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Southampton	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Stirling	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Swansea	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Torquay	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Weymouth	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53

ABROAD

Algeria	15.59	Corfu	17.63	Madrid	16.61	Rome	17.63
Alexandria	16.61	Cyprus	12.54	Manila	17.63	S. Francisco	16.61
Amman	17.63	Dubrovnik	11.54	Mexico	21.70	S. Paulo	28.52
Algiers	18.64	Edinburgh	17.63	Moscow	19.69	Saltzburg	11.52
Amsterdam	11.52	Faro	18.64	Munich	16.61	Santiago	24.75
Athens	17.63	Geneva	18.64	Nairobi	21.70	Seoul	12.54
Bahamas	22.72	Hong Kong	22.72	Paris	16.61	Singapore	33.91
Bahrain	24.75	London	17.63	Perth	16.61	Sydney	28.52
Bangkok	24.75	Los Angeles	24.75	Porto	16.61	Taipei	22.72
Barcelona	24.75	Lyons	17.63	Prague	15.59	Tokyo	22.72
Berlin	17.63	Madrid	16.61	Rangoon	24.75	Ulaanbaatar	11.52
Birmingham	10.6	Manila	17.63	Riyadh	15.59	Warsaw	16.61
Bombay	24.75	Medan	17.63	S. Francisco	16.61	Wellington	25.77
Buenos Aires	16.61	Montevideo	17.63	S. Paulo	28.52	Zurich	16.61
Burkina Faso	24.75	Moscow	19.69	Saltzburg	11.52		
Burundi	24.75	Munich	16.61	Santiago	24.75		
Butte	17.63	Nairobi	21.70	Seoul	12.54		
Calcutta	24.75	Paris	16.61	Singapore	33.91		
Cairo	22.72	Perth	16.61	Sydney	28.52		
Canton	24.75	Porto	16.61	Taipei	22.72		
Cebu	24.75	Prague	15.59	Tokyo	22.72		
Chengdu	17.63	Rangoon	24.75	Ulaanbaatar	11.52		
Chongqing	17.63	Riyadh	15.59	Warsaw	16.61		
Colombo	24.75	S. Francisco	16.61	Wellington	25.77		
Copenhagen	16.61	S. Paulo	28.52	Zurich	16.61		

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday. X = not available



City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	4.45	3.9	52.1	3.8	1	50
Abermouth	10.34	12.4	10.54	12.1	1	50
Belfast	3.13	3.0	2.7	3.3	1	50
Cardiff	10.18	11.0	10.41	10.7	1	50
Colwyn Bay	7.9	1.0	10	5.0	1	50
Exeter	8.1	1.0	10	5.0	1	50
Falmouth	7.9	1.0	10	5.0	1	50
Gloucester	3.8	0.09	16	6.1	1	57
Harrogate	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Hastings	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Hemel Hempstead	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Hertford	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Hove	7.7	1.0	16	6.1	1	57
Leeds	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Leicester	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
London	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Manchester	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Nottingham	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Sheffield	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Southampton	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Stirling	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Swansea	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Torquay	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53
Weymouth	10.6	1.0	13	13	1	53

S

هناك امتحان الاصل

TUESDAY APRIL 9 1996

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Nine people's lives are threatened by the same animal. An interview with... Robert (BBC2). Review: Peter Dinklage... the quirks of... Page 18

OPINION

The test for teachers

The new generation of teachers is an achievement of the modern age. The test for teachers is a challenge for the modern age. Page 18

Whitewater revisited

The Whitewater case may have been seen as a political stunt. But the Whitewater case was a political stunt. Page 18

Funeral blues

The funeral blues are a common sight. The funeral blues are a common sight. Page 18

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES

Libby Purves is a writer. Libby Purves is a writer. Page 18

WOODROW WYATT

Woodrow Wyatt is a writer. Woodrow Wyatt is a writer. Page 18

ELIZABETH NOEL

Elizabeth Noel is a writer. Elizabeth Noel is a writer. Page 18

OBITUARIES

Obituaries are a common sight. Obituaries are a common sight. Page 18

LETTERS

Letters are a common sight. Letters are a common sight. Page 18

NON TODAY

Non today is a common sight. Non today is a common sight. Page 18

RUGBY LEAGUE

Leeds exposed by power play of St Helens



LAW 29

Help is on the way for the victims of noise



SMALL BUSINESS 31

Chocolates to make Belgians eat their hearts out

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 34, 35

THE TIMES

TUESDAY APRIL 9 1996

Career-threatening accident to Busst overshadows Manchester United's victory

Injury dispels Bank Holiday spirit

Manchester United..... 1
Coventry City..... 0

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

INEVITABLY, Eric Cantona won it and, inexorably, Manchester United moved on towards their second FA Cup double in three years... but the whole relish of an Easter Monday game before 50,332 spectators, the biggest league crowd for nine years, had ebbed away after a horrifying injury after only 80 seconds which resulted in a compound fracture of the right leg for the Coventry City defender, David Busst. Three hours of surgery were needed last night, and it was still uncertain if the injury may have ended one of the unsung careers in the professional game.

It was one of those collisions that deeply affects even the hardest of professional careerists. Peter Schmeichel, United's Danish goalkeeper, who

Photograph
Rangers push for safety 20
Liverpool recover 21

once before had seen bone protruding through the flesh, simply said at the end of the contest: "I cannot talk; if they asked me a question about that accident, I would break down." And indeed the very joy and the purpose of the match was deadened from the instant that Busst, stretching forward in hope of the fifth goal of his lifetime, collided with the similarly outstretched leg of Denis Irwin.

It had followed what turned out to be Coventry's most enlightening moment. From a corner on the right by Fickling, Whelan had glanced the ball with his head. Schmeichel had used the fullness of 6ft 4in frame to dive to his right and point it into the goal. Then, when Busst and Dublin went for it, when the goalkeeper pounced on it, came the fateful collision. It left the leg at a grotesque angle and so much blood on the pitch that it was nine minutes before the goal area could be swabbed clean and the game restarted.

Even in the stands, hearts pounded, but the eyes did not want to see. Busst, who came late to Coventry on a free



The sickening moment when Busst, the Coventry City central defender, suffered a broken right leg in a challenge with Irwin, left, the Manchester United defender. Photograph: Ian Stewart

transfer from the Birmingham non-league club, Moor Green, has never had the opportunity to earn a fortune at his game. He has played fewer than 50 games at senior level and, at 28, is one year younger than the unbroken tenure Coventry have enjoyed in the top division in English football: a tenure which, alas, like the player's livelihood, is threatened this morning.

Yet, as Alex Ferguson, the United manager, was to observe, it was Coventry who first picked up the threads of the game. It was Whelan who burst through United's offside trap and Schmeichel who,

with a hint of reluctance, had to throw himself down near the same spot just in front of his right-hand post, to smother Whelan's chance.

Slowly, gradually, the main man of the afternoon, Cantona, began to shape what was left of the game. At the outset the tricolours had outnumbered anything else against the slate-grey sky, and the Frenchman, lying deep to orchestrate United's rhythm because the surging presence of Keane was missing through suspension, did indeed become the catalyst of the show. But it remained tentative, and one reason why was that Cole

has become more goal-maker than goalscorer since his £7 million transfer.

Two instances of this came before half-time. First, he spun away from Williams and, with wonderful vision, found Giggs, who attempted to flick the ball clear with his heel. It spun up, Cole and Richardson raced for it, the ball ricocheted off Richardson, and there, seven yards out and seemingly in seven yards of space, was Cantona, scoring almost with nonchalance.

After Ferguson had cleared his throat from the "hateful" injury to an opposing player, he said: "Thank God, the

chance fell to Ooh-ah. He panicked, didn't he? But I thought Eric was magnificent at times today."

Indeed he was, a player of so much technique and vision that he could stroll the field; and when Cantona stopped, for the final 20 minutes, United ebbed so badly that their manager conceded they could have thrown away the precious points. Instead of filling their boots with goals that may become crucial at the season's end, they had settled for a solitary gift, and in the final minute Richardson, trying desperately to give his club a lifeline, found himself eight

yards from goal, the home defence statuesque. But he was off balance, he mis-hit his shot wide, and the import of it all is that Coventry may this time be going down, and United will be going all the way to the final championship shoot-out.

However, all of it became secondary to that deeply sick-

ening feeling in the stomach that follows such an injury to a man who had done nothing to deserve such a fate.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P. Schmeichel - D. Irwin, D. McGuffee, L. Sharpe - D. Cantona, N. Buz, S. McCluskey, R. Giggs - E. Cantona - A. Cole
COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S. Ogrizovic - A. Fickling, D. Busst (sub: W. Boland, 20min), L. O'Grady, J. Salako - P. Toller (sub: E. Jones, 70), N. Richardson, P. Williams, P. Ndlovu - D. Dublin, N. Whelan.
Referee: D. Gallagher

Higgins blackballed with prized position in reach

By PHIL YATES

NIGEL BOND did Stephen Hendry, his Team Sweater Shop stable-mate, an enormous favour by capturing his first world ranking event, after seven years, as a snooker professional, by beating John Higgins 9-8 on the last black in a memorable British Open final at Plymouth yesterday.

Higgins was set to overhaul Hendry as the head of the provisional standings going into the Embassy world championship later this month when he established a commanding 69-0 lead in the deciding frame with only five reds, and therefore 67 points, available for Bond.

Higgins then dropped his guard. Instead of screwing back off a simple black for a choice of three easy reds, he chose to ignore obvious positional considerations. He missed a tough red to a middle pocket and Bond eventually potted four reds, with four blacks, and laid a fiendish snooker behind the blue. Higgins could not escape. Bond cleared to pink and, after getting the better of a tense tactical battle, potted it and clipped a courageous black across the top cushion.

"It was a pot you wouldn't go for under normal circumstances, but those weren't normal circumstances," Bond, who collected a first prize of £60,000, said. "When John was so far in front, I was

resigned to defeat, but I was thrown a lifeline."

Higgins had found himself trailing 3-0 as Bond, responsible for the elimination of Hendry and Peter Ebdon, started the stronger. When Higgins left a free ball in the first frame, Bond cleared the colours to draw first blood. Breaks of 61 and 35 gave him the second and he edged the third on the black by a single point.

Having misused on a reasonably straightforward blue to a middle pocket in that frame, which would have left Bond requiring snookers, Higgins exhibited his unshakable self-confidence by snatching the next for a vital foulball. Trailing 5-1, Higgins rolled in a risky long red



Bond: first ranking title

to launch a 56 clearance to pink, before he added a tricky black after a short safety exchange.

That seemed to have instigated a perceptible shift in the balance of power, for Higgins put together a run of 47 in the fifth, before jawing a red with the rest. Bond clinically fashioned a 79 clearance to lead 4-1, only for Higgins to claim the closing two frames of the session.

Higgins also accounted for the eighth with a 91 break, but Bond again showed his resilience, producing an emphatic response in the form of a run of 89 to regain the advantage at 5-4.

Even the 44 clearance to black from Higgins, initiated by a fluked red, that helped him to level at 6-6, failed to shatter Bond's resolve. After the next two frames had been shared, Bond defied the growing tension to construct a 122 clearance to lead 8-7. Higgins replied with contributions of 49 and 75 in the sixteenth frame before seeing virtually certain victory prised away.

Not since Jimmy White beat Cliff Thorburn 13-12 in the 1986 Mercantile Classic has a player prevailed in the deciding frame of a final after requiring a snooker.

FINAL: N. Bond (Eng) vs J. Higgins (Scot) 9-8. Frame scores (Bond first): 71-29, 90-4, 85-54, 53-64, 76-17, 16-72, 17-102, 0-81, 82-0, 39-60, 109-21, 55-58, 72-0, 0-97, 122-4, 0-128, 71-69.

Rivals threaten to expel England from five nations

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU), harassed by its own clubs at home, came under pressure from its five nations' championship partners last night over its dealings with television companies. The four other unions are so annoyed at English attempts to negotiate on their own behalf, that they threaten the 1996 champions with expulsion from the 1997-98 championship.

The five nations' committee met at Heathrow, with Wales, Scotland, Ireland and France in militant mood. Within the past month, tenders have been invited for the screening of the five nations' championship (the present BBC contract concludes at the end of next season), but the four countries believe that England seek, once more, to dominate the financial debate.

Frustration already exists over the RFU's refusal to allow its leading clubs to participate in this season's embryonic European competition, a frustration shared by the clubs themselves, who hope today for a definitive statement over the structure for next season. England's leading clubs want a 12-team first division rather than ten, as at present, and which the RFU is understood to favour.

"The RFU used the same principle to give their clubs a year's moratorium to sort out professional rugby," Donald

Kerr, the chairman of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Limited, said. "All we are asking is that the first division clubs get a similar opportunity. We think it would be desperately unfair on clubs to deny them the chance to get to grips with professional rugby next season in the top flight."

There must have been times this season when the RFU has felt the whole world was against it. In part, it is reaping the inheritance of its forebears, those who forced through the lion's share of the last television agreement on the basis of England's greater viewing population and, over a good many years, those who adopted an autocratic attitude



Botica: returning to union

to the organisation of the game.

Now, its best players and clubs demand to know where they stand in the new order, alongside a crisis of leadership within, created by the division over a new chairman of the union's executive committee, the post to which Cliff Brittle was elected. At the same time, the RFU seeks to inflict what it sees as a northern hemisphere equivalent of a provincial playing structure on an existing structure determined to resist it.

Orrell, meanwhile, have made sure of their first significant signing of the sport's new era when Franco Botica, the former New Zealand stand-off half, agreed a two-year contract believed to be worth more than £40,000.

Botica, 32, will, however, be spending the summer playing in the Super League for Castleford before turning his attentions to the code that he left in 1990 after seven appearances - mostly as understudy to Grant Fox - for the All Blacks.

He follows three Wales internationals - Jonathan Davies (to Cardiff), John Devereux and Adrian Hadley (both to Sale) - in reverting to rugby union after a league career. Botica spent most of that time with Wigan, for whom he recorded the fastest 1,000 points in league history.

If Chardonnay is all you make, you get it right. Or else.

Such is the competition among Chardonnays, you need dedication to stand out. James Herrick spent 22 years studying the grape, from Champagne to the Barossa. Then he brought back the technical skills learned in the New World and blended them with Old World savoir-faire in the South of France. He planned Chardonnay and nothing but. He makes his own wine using his own grapes, and no other. And each vintage he produces a classic, elegant, powerful, long-finishing. Nothing else will do for him. Nothing less should do for you.

James Herrick CHARDONNAY

AVAILABLE COUNTRYWIDE FROM PERKLEY WINE, COCKBURN'S OF LEITH, DAVISON'S, E.H. BORTH, ELDRIDGE POPE, EUROPA, FULLER'S, HALL BATHON, ODDINS, RUSSELL CELLARS, SAINSBURY'S, SOMERFIELD, SPAR, THOS. PEATLING, UNWIN'S, VICTORIA WINE, WINE CELLAR.

IN BRIEF

Second-half try spree puts Cardiff in hunt

CARDIFF kept alive their hopes of retaining the Heineken League rugby union title by picking up maximum points in a 41-13 win over Aberavon at the Talbot Athletic Ground yesterday. They picked up three bonus points courtesy of seven tries, to move up to third place and keep the pressure on Neath and Pontypridd.

After a sluggish start, Cardiff got their act together with six second-half tries, including three from Steve Ford, the wing, that lifted him to 19 league tries for the season — one short of the record. Cardiff's other tries came from Jonathan Humphreys, Andy Booth, Owain Williams and Adrian Davies, who also kicked three conversions.

Philip Wintle and Richard Diplock scored tries for Aberavon and Mark Watts kicked a penalty goal.

Biela sets pace for Audi

Motor racing: Frank Biela won the opening rounds of the Auto Trader RAC touring car championship at a canter at Donington Park yesterday. It was a magnificent British debut for Audi and underlined the superiority of the four-wheel-drive Audi A4 over its two-wheel-drive rivals.

Biela's closest challenger was Will Hoy, the 1991 champion, whose Renault Laguna finished second in both races. Biela heads for the third and fourth rounds of the championship at Brands Hatch on April 21 with a seven-point lead over Hoy.

Bray in vain

Cycling: A lone attack by Simon Bray, the British, Welsh and universities road-race champion, brought him victory in the final stage of the Girvan three-day race, but was not enough to dislodge Dave Williams from the yellow jersey.

Williams, who had started the day with 37 seconds in hand over Mark Lovatt, finished third in the hilly 64-mile stage, allowing Bray to drift off the front with 20 miles to go before he was hauled in to finish seven seconds ahead.

Title retained

Equestrianism: Anky van Brusen, of Holland, retained the Volvo World Cup dressage title for the second year running at Gothenburg yesterday. She guided Camellion Bonfire through an intricate freestyle pattern that included a double pirouette which earned a top mark of ten from the chairman of the five judges.

Margit Otto-Crepin, of France, the 1989 winner, rode Lucky Lord into second and Klaus Balkenol, of Germany, finished third on Garcon.

Golden great

Golf: Jack Nicklaus scored the hundredth professional victory of his career at Scottsdale, Arizona, when he retained the Tradition title. He sealed his fourth win in the seniors tournament with a second successive round of 65, which gave him a 16-under aggregate of 272 — three better than Hale Irwin, the former US Open champion.

Kelly Robbins beat Val Skinner, her fellow American, on the fifth play-off hole to win the LPGA tournament in Lincoln, California.

Evans warms up

Athletics: Paul Evans, who will be trying to secure a place in the Great Britain Olympic team when he races in the Flora London Marathon on Sunday week, won the Fred Slater ten-kilometres road race at Peterborough yesterday. Evans took 1min 23sec off the course record to win in 28min 33sec.

Rider killed

Motorcycling: Marco Burrell, the Italian superbike rider, was killed after a high-speed crash in an Italian championship race at Monza yesterday. Burrell, 29, and another rider, Mauro Mastrelli, who is in serious condition in hospital, collided after slipping on oil.

Jalabert returns

Cycling: Laurent Jalabert, the world No.1, made a surprise return from a knee injury suffered in the Paris-Nice race last month to take the first stage of the 36th Basque Tour in Lasarte, Spain yesterday. The Frenchman won a sprint finish to the 120km first stage of the five-stage race.

Sinclair boosts Rangers' push towards safety

Queens Park Rangers 3
Everton 1

BY ALYSON RUDD

THIS is turning into a through-the-looking-glass season for Queens Park Rangers. They spent much of it worrying when there was really no need to and now, when relegation is more likely than not, they have jumped off the psychiatrist's couch to play free-flowing, counter-attacking football as if without a care in the world.

Victory against Everton moved them one place nearer safety. It was an exemplary team performance, with Sinclair top of the class and

Hateley bottom — but even the former Rangers forward managed a goal in the midst of an embarrassing overall contribution.

Everton, in the first half, gave a wonderful rendition of a team with nothing to play for. Only in the second half did they remember that there is a place in Europe at stake and at last they put the QPR goal under sustained pressure.

Fifteen minutes into the match, Everton were left exposed after a run by Sinclair, who had simply to slide the ball into Gallen's path for a goal. So many times this season, similar situations have failed to result in Gallen scoring. Yesterday, however, he confidently assessed the angle and beat Southall.

Sinclair was in one of his more effective moods. Indeed, Hinchcliffe was booked in the 27th minute after a clumsy attempt to stop one of the winger's dashes.

By contrast, Hateley seemed unable to do anything right. Sinclair found him unmarked in the penalty area. Hateley wasted the opportunity. Wilkins found him with a clever pass and Hateley booted the ball into no-man's land. But not even Hateley was going to squander Holloway's cross in the 32nd minute. Again he was given space and this time he looped his header over Southall who remained motionless, simply glaring at the defenders.

Everton, lifted from their stupor by a half-time chat with Joe Royle, the

manager, almost scored within three minutes of the restart. Hinchcliffe fed the ball through to Ferguson, whose powerful shot hit the woodwork.

The second half gave QPR the chance to show off their new-found defensive repertoire and Brevet and Yates, in particular, were impressive. Somner, too, played his part, bravely meeting the ball when under pressure and refusing to be even gently shaken by the towering presence of Ferguson.

The home side then went 3-0 ahead. Sinclair, skipping down the right flank, chose to shoot while Hinchcliffe, unmarked, called for a pass. The ball fell to Impey, anyway, on the rebounds from Southall.

Everton snatched one goal from

their continued assault. Ebrell prudding the ball past Somner after Ferguson had flicked the ball on to him. Thereafter, there was constant goalmouth action. Ferguson headed wide, wasting Hateley's cross, and Hateley once again squandered a ball from Sinclair.

After the final whistle the home supporters clung to each other in rapture as the day's other results were announced. All in all, a splendid day in west London.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): J. Sinclair — D. Bardsley, A. McDonald, S. Yates, R. Brevet — M. Somner, A. Hinchcliffe, A. Impey — K. Gallen, M. Hateley.
EVERTON (4-3-3): N. Southall — T. M. Hinchcliffe, D. Watson, D. Unsworth (sub: C. Short, 64min), A. Hinchcliffe — S. Home (sub: T. Grant, 74), J. Patterson, J. Ebrell — A. Kanevskiy, D. Ferguson, A. Lampard (sub: M. Branch, 46).
Referee: P. Duxton



Sinclair: commanding

Ball's beleaguered side shows little heart for Premiership survival battle

Timid City relegated to also-ran's role

Wimbledon 3
Manchester City 0

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

ON THE evidence of this abominable performance yesterday, Manchester City deserve to be relegated. Whether they do go down depends on how quickly they can put the memory of this game behind them, and how adversely results affect the other teams at the bottom. Should they drop out of the FA Carling Premiership, they will not be greatly missed.

Wimbledon, who needed the points almost as badly, are now all but safe, having achieved their third victory in four games. They utterly outplayed City, taking a fortieth-minute lead through Robbie Earle, who added a second two minutes after the interval. A third goal, from Efan Ekoku, followed shortly afterwards as City gave up, which is the worst thing one can say about a professional side.

There was no professional pride displayed by them at Selhurst Park yesterday.

City ended the game with three Germans and two Georgians in the number, and a fat lot of good it did them. Kinkladze, the dinky little forward, was followed everywhere by Cunningham and did next to nothing, but he was nowhere near as bad as Frontzeck, the German left back, whose lamentable performance was a collector's item.

Frontzeck had given the ball away on two occasions before he did so again five minutes before half-time. Jones accepted his pass with gratitude, set up Ardley, the full back, along the right, and, when his cross came in, Earle beat Immel with a powerful header that the goalkeeper could parry but not stop.

Earle made no secret of his intentions when the ball was in the air, but City let him do as he liked. When Gayle hit the bar immediately after the restart, Jones redirected the ball back across goal and



Earle, right, who scored Wimbledon's first two goals with headers, uses his feet in a tussle with Lomas yesterday. Photograph: Des Jenson

Earle headed his second goal. Then, Ekoku drove in a third, after Synons had failed to clear. Wimbledon had turned a tiresome spectacle into a thumping victory.

City made just two chances. Kinkladze, released by Kavelashvili, his fellow Georgian, shot with his left foot when his right would have been more useful, and Sullivan blocked. To be honest, Kinkladze does not have a right foot. A minute from time, when Phillips skipped down the right, Kavelashvili sent a

header straight at the goalkeeper.

At first, Alan Ball, the City manager, declined to attend a post-match press conference, clearly not trusting himself to give diplomatic answers. He has never said much of interest throughout his undistinguished managerial career, and he is obviously finding it difficult to make his players listen to whatever he wants to impart.

Those players lacked any sense of spirit yesterday. Wimbledon were sharper to the

ball, which was no great distinction in a match this poor, and they made better use of it. City, with Clough anonymous in midfield and with all manner of weird things going on at the back, where Immel and his defenders were hardly on speaking terms, made a pitiful sight.

They remain fourth from the bottom and Ball eventually said: "If the season finished now, I would be happy." With the Coventry City and Southampton results going their way, it was not as bad a day as

it might have been, but they are still involved in a fight against relegation and may not avoid the drop.

"The first goal was a shocker," Ball said, his brow as black as thunder. "I thought in open play we made the better chances, but at free kicks we were not at all committed."

"These players are top professionals. They want the sunshine and everything that goes with it, but they have to accept responsibility and today too many of them did not."

Joe Kinnear, his Wimble-

don counterpart, was a happier man. "There was only going to be one winner today," he said. "We were much the more determined team and eased up a bit after the third goal. They [Manchester City] certainly need to do more than that if they are to stay up."

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N. Sullivan — N. Ardley, A. Pearce, C. Perry, A. Kinnear — R. Earle, V. Jones, K. Cunningham, M. Gayle (sub: A. Clarke, 68min) — D. Holdsworth, E. Ekoku (sub: J. Goodman, 75).
MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): E. Immel — I. Bignall, K. Curle, K. Synons, M. Frontzeck, N. Sammerese (sub: M. Phillips, 20), G. Kinkladze, N. Clough, S. Lomas — N. Quinn (sub: U. Rosler, 60), M. Kavelashvili.
Referee: G. Poll

Bolton still managing to smile in the face of adversity

Bolton Wanderers 2
Chelsea 1

BY MARK HODKINSON

HOPE is ultimately more cruel than failure itself, but Colin Todd, the Bolton Wanderers manager, is set for another month at its mercy.

On Saturday, after a sound beating by Everton, Todd said that he had but a "glimmer" of hope that his team would avoid relegation from the FA Carling Premiership. After this win against Chelsea, the metaphorical glimmer has had its wattage increased somewhat and Todd is left once more to sup with a devil called Hope.

He revealed afterwards that he had told his team to relax and enjoy their football. "I spoke to the players about being relaxed and it showed at times," he said. "It was nice to see them play with a smile on their faces. They deserved the win and were a credit to themselves. I asked them to dig deep and they did."

In a match showing just fleeting touches of skill, Chelsea were not equal to Bolton's muscular endeavour. Wise and Spencer were joyous in battle, but often found themselves swamped by the sheer number of bodies coming at them in Bolton colours.

Chelsea took the lead in simplistic fashion. Gullit found Furlong, he reached the byline and Spencer hungrily crashed the ball past Ward.

Bolton were understandably nervous and their play was often fractured before they crossed the halfway line. Stubbs, however, cool in a crisis, fed McGinlay, who chided the ball well before scoring with a low shot.

Just before half-time, Currie ambled towards Chelsea's goal and, from the edge of the penalty area, slammed the ball past Hitchcock. Currie kissed his club crest and raced along the perimeter fence touching the hand of every Bolton supporter that he passed.

The enterprise barely increased after the break, both teams compensating for a lack of skill with sweat. Currie was usually involved in the more controlled play, with Chelsea often employing illicit means to halt his progress. He was fouled on the edge of the penalty area and drove the resultant free kick into Chelsea's goal. It was disallowed because the free kick had been indirect and Currie's boot was the ball's only company before it hit the net.

Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, was disappointed with his side's capitulation. "It just wasn't good enough today; we're not learning from our mistakes," he said. "Bolton were worthy winners. They showed quality and were better with the ball than we were and we are supposed to be a ball-playing side."

Hoddle, once again, praised the form of Gullit, Wise and Spencer, but was upset that his team had lost three consecutive matches in which they had been in front.

Eulogies to Chelsea have been manifold and sustained this season, but they still trail in the Premiership behind sides such as Everton, Blackburn Rovers and West Ham United — teams that play a more coarse, unsophisticated game. Against Bolton, they had neither the class nor valour to raise themselves above a rugged dogfight.

For their part, Bolton are the renaissance men of the Premiership and, as Todd admitted, the drama will not finish until the last ball is kicked at the end of the season.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-1-1): G. Ward — G. Bagginton, C. Furlong, S. Coleman, J. Phillips (sub: J. McGinlay, A. Stubbs, S. Ball, A. Thompson — S. Currie — I. Bignall (sub: S. Taylor, 83min).
CHELSEA (4-4-1-1): K. Hitchcock — D. Pringle (sub: G. Bullock, 49), M. O'Donnell, D. Lee, A. Myers — D. Wise, R. Spence, S. Spencer, S. Morris (sub: G. Peacock, 68) — R. Gullit — P. Furlong.
Referee: S. Lodge

Sad Southampton beached by Yorke

Aston Villa 3
Southampton 0

BY PAT GIBSON

TWO flashes of brilliance by Dwight Yorke, skimming across the barren desert of Villa Park in his dazzling white boots as though he was playing beach football back in his native Tobago, lit up a game that did nothing to improve Southampton's chances of staying in the FA Carling Premiership.

Southampton had raised their hopes by beating Blackburn Rovers through a Le Tissier penalty at The Dell on Saturday and, for more than an hour yesterday, they clung to the hope that their talisman would be able to conjure something out of nothing.

He could not. Instead, it was Aston Villa, still playing with extraordinary commitment, even though they have a place in Europe secure, who broke the deadlock, scored two more and might have got six.

"The first goal killed us," Dave Merrington, the Southampton manager, said. "We set our stall out to do a specific job and I thought we had actually done that, because, until that one went in, I could not see Villa scoring."

Merrington must take his share of the blame. He had chosen the eccentric Grobbelaar in preference to Beasant and it was the goalkeeper's rush of blood, as he went for a Townsend corner without quite getting there, which enabled Taylor to head Villa ahead in the 64th minute.

Suddenly, Villa were rampant and two goals in the

space of three minutes settled the game. First, Yorke produced a wonderful piece of skill on the edge of the six-yard box and then squared the ball for Charles to slot in his first goal of the season.

Then, Yorke controlled a long pass from Taylor just inside the Southampton half with his back to goal. He flicked the ball over Neilson's head and outpaced the rest of the defence before planting a low shot out of Grobbelaar's reach. It was his 25th goal of the season.

Yorke might have scored three more after that. Townsend curled a 25-yard shot against the right-hand post and Johnson hit the other upright from the rebound. Then, in the last minute, Milosevic, clean through, hit Grobbelaar's legs with his first shot and a post with the second.

Southampton had no complaints, apart from the fact that Milosevic should not have been on the field at that stage. He should have been sent off seven minutes into the second half for striking Widdington, with whom he had been having a running battle.

"I saw him punch him in the head but unfortunately the officials did not," Merrington said. "I would not make an issue of it because it's a man's game, but it's a part of football I don't like." Needless to say, Brian Little, the Villa manager, did not see the incident.

ASTON VILLA (3-3-2): M. Bowen — G. Charles, U. Ekeogu, P. McGinlay (sub: R. Sanchez, 47min), I. Taylor, A. Wright, J. Johnson, A. Townsend, M. Dwyer — D. Yorke, S. Milosevic.
SOUTHAMPTON (3-5-1-1): B. Grobbelaar — J. Dodd, T. Widdington, F. Beasant — A. Nelson, D. Hughes, B. Vernon (sub: G. Watson, 68), P. Fadden, S. Charlton (sub: M. Loe — N. Shepperson).
Referee: P. Danson

Reading unhinged by Freedman

Reading 0
Crystal Palace 2

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

WHILE automatic promotion is probably beyond Crystal Palace, this victory keeps them chugging along nicely towards the Endleigh Insurance League first division play-offs.

Reading, on the other hand, watched by their biggest crowd of the season, are looking even more nervously over their shoulders at the only three teams behind them in the table.

The finishing from both sides was weak, with the goalkeepers seldom called into action, although, when they were, Martyn, for Palace, was able to produce the

goods, while Sheppard, his opposite number, twice had to pick the ball out of his net.

Reading had the better of the first 44 minutes, almost scoring with their first attack when Caskey, unmarked, headed wide from a cross by Williams. Quinn and Goodwin, the joint player-managers, each came within inches of putting their team ahead, while, for Palace, Freedman saw a gap and launched a run on goal, but lacked the pace to outstrip his pursuers.

Palace's best hope seemed to be Sheppard's uncertain kicking, which made his defenders' insistence on passing back to him at every opportunity all the more puzzling. Finally, in the last minute of the half, there was one back-pass too many. Wodowczyk's header sold Sheppard short

and Freedman touched the ball past him before putting it into an empty net.

Wodowczyk, a Poland international, nearly made amends when Martyn had to dive full length to turn aside his free kick from 20 yards. From the resulting corner, Reading forced Martyn into another fine reflex stop from Parkinson's header.

Palace came close to extending their lead when Veart headed Edworthy's cross just past a post, but Reading went closer still as Lovell headed powerfully against the bar with Martyn out of position.

Just as Reading, their attack freshened by three substitutions, looked likely to force an equaliser, Freedman escaped the attentions of Holsgrove, took the ball to the byline and laid it into the path

of Houghton, who drilled it fiercely past Sheppard.

Although Tuttle's departure, for a second bookable offence, meant that Palace had to see out the last ten minutes a man short, Reading were unable to capitalise and left the field wondering about results elsewhere.

The main danger for Palace, unlikely as they are to be able to catch Derby County for second place, is running out of steam before the beginning of that other National Lottery, the play-offs.

READING (3-1-4-2): S. Sheppard — A. Boral, P. Holsgrove, D. Wodowczyk — A. Parkinson (sub: M. Neale, 60min) — M. Bony, M. Gooding, D. Caskey, M. Williams (sub: L. Nugent, 66), M. Williams (sub: S. Lovell, 59).
CRYSTAL PALACE (5-2-3-1): M. Martyn — M. Ewerth, G. Davies, A. Roberts, D. Tuttle, K. Brown — R. Houghton, S. Rodgers — D. Hodgkin, D. Freedman (sub: L. Anderson, 77), C. Veart (sub: B. Dyer, 88).
Referee: G. Pooley

Sunderland in need of reinforcements

Sunderland 0
Charlton Athletic 0

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

HOW many Sunderland players might make the grade in the FA Carling Premiership? On the evidence at a breezy, bad-tempered Roker Park yesterday, ticks would be placed only next to the names of Martin Scott, the left back, and Richard Ord, a central defender. Question marks should be appended next to young Michael Bridges, Michael Gray, Sam Aiston and Craig Russell, who was missing through injury. As for the rest — forget it.

This match served to highlight the overriding need for substantial investment by

Sunderland this summer. The search for new talent should start now because, despite this stunner, Peter Reid's side remains top of the Endleigh Insurance League first division, three points ahead of Derby County with a game in hand. Missing automatic promotion would represent negligence on a grand scale, and Sunderland are far too well-organised for that. However, if the board neglects to find a minimum of £10 million, the side will undoubtedly be subjected to an appalling ordeal come August.

With nine established first-team players absent, this was a highly impressive performance by the London side. Petterson, Charlton's third-choice goalkeeper, producing a fine display in front of him,

young Bridges constantly caused anxiety among Charlton's back line, but this was a tight, tough fixture to make, at 17, a first league start.

All credit to Bridges for persistently linking play so well — passing, laying off, heading on and running into astute positions so well he might have been an old-timer. The scorer of four goals in nine appearances as a substitute, Bridges is seen as an apprentice Fowler or Scholes. Here, however, he had just one clear-cut chance before retiring exhausted.

Of more significance was that his link play was allied to a deceptive toughness. Bridges may look 15 but he picked himself up like a man after a cynical challenge from Whyte. The defender was cautioned

and, judging by the rash of raised studs, a few of his teammates are equally streetwise.

If Charlton were slightly fortunate to finish with 11 men, they deserved a point for stopping the likes of Gray and Bracewell. Yet Alan Curtisley's side found few answers to the right-wing questions asked by Aiston, a mop-haired teenager who kept Petterson's reflexes with his first touch. An exciting prospect, but would he be any match for a Pearce, Irwin or Hinchcliffe? Doubtful.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): A. Chamberlain — D. Kilduff, A. McEneaney, R. Ord, M. Scott — S. Agnew (sub: S. Aiston, 70min), K. Ball, A. Thompson — S. Currie — I. Bignall (sub: S. Taylor, 83min).
CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A. Petterson — S. Newton, R. Fulus, S. Baines, C. Whyte — M. Robinson (sub: P. Langry, 46), S. Brown, K. Jones, J. Robinson — C. Lamburn, B. Allen.
Referee: E. Lomas

[illegible]

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pl
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-12	
10102	B Minns	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-3+36	
10203	A Coton	Manchester United	2.50	0	0
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-1	-21
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10303	A Pettis	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	-8+47	
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	+2	-7
10502	M Beesley	Leeds United	0.75	0	-9
10601	P Smicsek	Newcastle United	3.00	-7	-5
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10603	S Hlop	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	+3
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-3	+2
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-3	-46
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	-1	-23
10903	P Head	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	+5	+5
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	-1	-28
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+8
11102	K Hinchcock	Chelsea	1.00	-3	-15
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-1+29	
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-5	-46
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-6
11401	L Mladso	West Ham United	2.50	-1	-12
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	-5
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	+5	+2
11502	J Kearton	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	+5	-33
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11603	J Folan	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11703	E Imnel	Manchester City	2.00	-5	-41
11801	M Boenich	Aston Villa	2.50	-1+29	
11803	M Oakes	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	-13
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-68
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0
12003	G Ward	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-5	-5

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pl
20101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+20
20102	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+3
20103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+29
20104	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	0
20201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	-1	+37
20202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	0	+1
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	-2	+20
20204	P Neville	Manchester United	0.75	-1	+35
20301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	-1	+29
20302	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+21
20303	A Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-13
20401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	-2	+54
20402	S Bjornbey	Liverpool	0.00	0	+4
20403	S Harkness	Liverpool	0.75	0	+30
20501	T Dorogi	Leeds United	3.50	0	+15
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+3	+22
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	0	+4
20601	J Beresford	Newcastle United	3.00	-3	+12
20602	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+24
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+12
20702	J Edinburg	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+3
20703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	-1	+38
20704	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
20705	C Wardley	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+19
20801	D Barsley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	-1	-12
20802	R Brett	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-1	-3
20803	N Zelic	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	-3
20804	T Challis	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	-1
20901	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-4
20902	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-8
20903	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-18
20904	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	+4	+19
21002	F Benali	Southampton	1.00	+4	+6
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	0	+8
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	0	+11
21102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	-1	+2
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	-1	+12
21105	T Phelan	Chelsea	1.50	0	+6
21106	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.50	-1	+21
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	+48
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+48
21203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.50	0	+4
21301	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-9
21303	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-19
21304	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-4
21401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.50	+3	+22
21402	T Breacker	West Ham United	3.00	0	-9
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	0	+2
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	-1	+15
21501	G Ablett	Everton	2.50	0	+10
21502	E Barrett	Everton	2.50	0	+4
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	0	+11
21505	M Hottiger	Everton	3.00	+7	+6
21601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-3
21602	A Pickering	Coventry City	1.00	+4	+5
21603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
21604	M Hall	Coventry City	0.75	0	-23
21702	R Edgill	Manchester City	1.50	0	-1
21704	J Foster	Manchester City	0.75	0	-1
21706	M Frontzeck	Manchester City	1.50	-1	-11
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+43
21802	S Staunton	Aston Villa	4.50	-1	+12
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+53
21804	P King	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21901	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-7
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+25
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+16
21904	S Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	-3
22001	G Benson	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-2	-8
22002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	0	-9
22003	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-3	-19
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	-6
22005	S McAnespie	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	+1
22006	B Small	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pl
30101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+25
30102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+3
30103	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+5
30104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
30105	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-1	+15
30201	S Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	-1	+46
30202	G Pallister	Manchester United	4.50	0	+27
30203	D May	Manchester United	1.50	0	+10
30301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.50	-1	+25
30302	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+13
30401	P Babb	Liverpool	3.00	0	+36
30402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50	-2	+37
30403	J Scales	Liverpool	3.50	-2	+37
30404	M Wright	Liverpool	1.00	-1	-46
30405	D Matteo	Liverpool	0.75	0	+4
30501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	3.50	+3	+23
30502	C Palmer	Leeds United	3.00	+2	+17
30503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	1.50	0	-7
30505	P Beesley	Leeds United	1.00	0	+13
30506	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.50	0	+3
30601	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.00	-3	+21
30602	S Howe	Newcastle United	3.00	-2	+26
30603	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	+19
30701	C Caldwell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+33
30702	C Caldwell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+26
30703	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	-1	-5
30704	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0
30705	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0



David Platt made life difficult for his team, Fantasia, by including players from struggling Premiership teams

The pros and cons of ITF play

THERE are but a handful of games left to decide the winners and losers in both the FA Carling Premiership and Interactive Team Football (ITF). And while the 200,000 plus competitors in the ITF jostle for position, studying the form, fixtures and tea leaves to squeeze the maximum number of points from the remaining games, the professionals in the PFA league are far more relaxed about their fate.

Barring accident, disqualification or act of God, Jan Molby's Danish Dynamite will win the £5,000 cheque for the players' Benevolent Fund.

Alix Ramsay takes a look at some of the leading teams entered by PFA members

Molby has been leading since Christmas and now has moved 48 points ahead of the field. Simon Webster from West Ham and Mark Powell from Bolton Wanderers have been doing their best to turn it into a three-horse race but have been nobbled by expensive but goal-shy strikers.

What remains is the race for the minor placings, not so much to earn a place in Europe but to save the bar-racking in the dressing room.

Making a late charge for respectability is David Platt's selection, Fantasia. Having spent much of the season lurking in the anonymity of mid-table — his team probably weighed down by a name that sounds like a cross between a Walt Disney movie and an orange drink — Fantasia have finally shaken themselves up and are heading for the top 10. Currently lying in 12th place with 366 points, they are a mere five

points behind Steve Clarke's JC's Superstars in 10th.

Platt hardly made things easy for himself with the inclusion of Richard Sneekes and Andy Impey from the relegation contenders, Bolton and Queens Park Rangers. Add to that the problems over Marc Hotiger and his work permit and the collapse of Leeds — Platt's £3 million outlay on Carlton Palmer has gained him just 15 points — and Fantasia was in trouble early on.

Strangely enough, it is the players who have had a rough ride this season who have done well in the ITF. Obviously months of clinging to the bottom of the Premiership and staring Endleigh Division one in the face focusses the mind.

At the other end of the table, the Newcastle boys, all nine of them, have learned little from their boss, Kevin Keegan. Then again, Messrs Beresford, Beardsley, Albert and friends have a paltry £35 million to spend on their teams. The way Keegan spends money, that is no more than petty cash.

HOW THE PROFESSIONALS' ITF TEAMS ARE FARING

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Danish Dynamite	(J Molby)	471
2	West Ham United	(S Webster)	422
3	Nash FC	(M Powell)	405
4	Rattus Norvegicus	(S Pearce)	391
5	Cardiff Blues	(D Bussit)	389
6	Teds XI	(B Home)	383
7	Druid Select	(S Morgan)	382
8	Macs Moodies	(A McDonald)	379
9	The Ruff Neck	(R Fox)	375
10	JC's Superstars	(S Clarke)	371
11	Southcoast Old Boys	(M Allen)	369
12	Fantasia	(D Platt)	366
13	The Moody Blues	(N Spackman)	365
14	The Travellers	(L Hunt)	363
15	Pocho	(M Kennedy)	360

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
16	Whitby Winners	(S Whitaker)	358
17	The Crazy Boys	(N McDonald)	357
18	Mid's	(D Peacock)	356
19	Dodgy Barnets Eleven	(J Beresford)	351
20	J & F FC	(J Beresford)	349
21	The Fab 12	(F Delavast)	349
22	Pura Silk	(T Sinclair)	348
23	The Bluesoes	(J Spencer)	344
24	Bullcock Town	(S Stone)	344
25	Garage United	(S Brown)	342
26	Barkers Follies	(S Barker)	341
27	Ryton Raiders	(G Gales)	340
28	Kansas City Kings	(T Breaker)	338
29	Bruce Bonus	(A Hinchcliffe)	338
30	Eleven From Heaven	(A Linpar)	337

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pl
30801	D Maddix	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-13
30802	S Yates	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-1	-13
30805	A McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	-1	+3
30901	K Reedy	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	-10
30901	A Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-4
30902	A Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-5
30903	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-8
30904	C Perry	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-16
30905	A Pearce	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-3
31001	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	+1	+6
31002	A Neilson	Southampton	1.50	+4	+5
31003	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	0	+7
31101	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0	+12
31102	J Kjeldberg	Chelsea	1.50	0	0
31103	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	+5
31104	D Lee	Chelsea	0.75	-1	+19
31105	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	-2	+2
31201	T Adams	Arsenal	4.50	0	+27
31202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+23
31203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.50	0	+30
31204	A Lingham	Arsenal	1.50	0	+10
31301	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-4
31303	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0
31401	S Potts	West Ham United	2.50	0	+15
31402	M Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	0	+10
31403	A Martin	West Ham United	1.00	0	+23
31405	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
31406	S Bilic	West Ham United	1.50	-1	+4
31501	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	+4	+38
31502	A Wintson	Everton	2.50	+4	+38
31503	C Short	Everton	2.50	0	-7
31602	D Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-7
31603	D Bussit	Coventry City	0.75	+4	+5
31604	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-15
31605	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	-17
31606	L Daltch	Coventry City	1.50	+4	+3
31701	K Curle	Manchester City	1.50	-3	+3
31702	A Karmaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-3
31704	K Symons	Manchester City	1.50	-2	+5
31801	U Elighu	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+36
31802	McGrath	Aston Villa	1.50	+12	+5
31804	C Tiller	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+17
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+21
31903	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	0
31904	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	+18
32001	A Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-2	+13
32002	M Lough	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-2	-20
32003	S Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-2	+1
32004	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-10	-10
32005	C Gargner	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

Toil and transfers mean race goes down to the wire

106	The Rainbow Connect	(G Weiss)	535	178	Suttles Golden Playe	(G Sullivan)	522
106	Wotnotheare	(K Booth)	535	178	The Fifty Granders	(R N Smith)	522
108	Forgies Fury	(P Simpson)	535	178	Orbital Brushes	(S Brocom)	522
115	No Fear Utd	(G Saunders)	534	178	No Defence Ok	(J B Portwood)	522
116	Evans Men	(W Doyle)	534	178	Traleslack Town	(M Phillips)	522
117	Quinton Forest	(J Baker)	533	178	Gibbins Terry Mark	(T Gibbins)	522
117	Bon Accord	(J Kelson)	533	178	Emmy Bee	(E Burkishner)	522
117	Wimpe Utd	(A Heath)	533	178	Parrick Thistle 4	(C Nicco)	522
117	Stevens Lions 7	(G Brewer)	533	190	—	—	521
117	S Express FC	(S O'Toole)	533	190	JRFC 2	(J J Roib)	521
117	Partizan Beograd 1	(D Stojkovic)	533	190	The Young Guns	(B Shepherd)	521
117	Tanners United	(NJ Lane)	533	190	Totterdidge United	(D Seal)	521
124	—	(N Thompson)	532	190	JK's Dolphins	(J F Kitchen)	521
124	West Ham Alliance	(P Cook)	532	190	Yehow	(T Wood)	521
124	DNI Oost	(G McGregor)	532	190	The Black Knights	(R A Green)	521
124	Glenns Two	(E Kirby)	532	190	Adams Mill Or God 1	(R Pike)	521
128	Pallisers Army	(J Pregon)	531	190	Ram Jam Nineteen	(J Whitted)	521
128	Barthful Bankers	(C Alavoine)	531	190	Palm Bay XI	(R Half)	521
128	Richardsons Rubies	(J Richardson)	531	200	Headstar	(I Stokes)	520
131	Nippers	(K Hughes)	530	200	Nurofen Utd II	(W Warner)	520
131	Strovi FC	(S Berloff)	530	200	Edwards Engineers	(R Edden)	520
131	Walsh & Gromit FC	(S Hyams)	530	200	The Conjurers	(D J Farmer)	520
131	Whetgaol Utd	(A Hughes)	530	200	Jameson Magic XI	(S Egan)	520
131	Triple Peeders	(J B Portwood)	530	200	Joe Royles Wink 3	(T Gammage)	520
131	Carling XI	(P Parks)	530	200	Platypus United	(M Allison)	520
131	Torr's Tormentors	(B Torr)	530	200	Rifflshaw's Rebels	(A Targett)	520
131	Dour Rangers	(I Clayton)	530	200	Andrew's Allstars	(A Suggitt)	520
131	Bljos	(M Miesian)	530	200	The Dream Team	(C Farrell)	520
140	Kaspars Three	(E J Kirby)	529	200	Menage A Orize 2	(P Young)	520
141	Stevens's Scorpers	(S Trindin)	528	200	Racing Club Hamvel	(G Williams)	520
141	Eddie's Eagles	(E Woods)	528	200	Kavous	(G Gaidjigian)	520
141	Harrington Inter	(D Lowell)	528	213	Get A Life Nev	(N Kearney)	519
141	Boing Boing Baggy	(T Horne)	528	213	Halle Angels	(H Thompson)	519
145	Rustful Rabbits	(J Whately)	527	213	New Babes Eleven	(J Godwin)	519
145	Old Turf	(J Ratcliffe)	527	213	Star's Dirty Dogz	(S House)	519
145	Tilehurst Tornadoes	(D Chamberlain)	527	213	Northbank Canadian	(S Smith)	519
145	Abergavenny Rovers	(S Smith)	527	213	The Mighty Durston	(D Hall)	519
145	No Sam Today	(N Webb)	527	213	Slunk City	(M Franks)	519
145	The Tinkerbell	(S Westland)	527	213	The Magicians	(A Cressgan)	519
145	Egerton Park	(D Rhoades)	527	213	Team Tobias	(P Tobias)	519
152	Deaton Stones FC	(P McCauley)	526	213	Randy Ravens	(F Phillips)	519
152	Upum	(S Kavanagh)	526	223	Alcan Dynamoes	(A Hill)	518
152	Warren Wizards	(J Buckle)	526	223	Yarm XI	(J Rogers)	518
152	Stigint Utd	(S Gorse)	526	223	Death Or Glory	(A T Davies)	518
152	Bert Trautmann XI	(M Podgus)	526	223	Northern Nashers	(P Sansom)	518
152	Manson The Person	(S Blane)	526	223	Victoria Vandals	(D Gurner)	518
152	Chieft	(S Tahvil)	526	228	C	(M Corless)	517
158	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	526	228	Nokda Rangers	(A G W Whynt)	517
158	Only Can Soccer	(M McGowan)	526	228	Seven Kings FC	(S Siddiqui)	517
158	Scot Utd	(B Scollick)	526	228	OPR Austers A	(S Wamphrey)	517
158	Andy's Elites	(A Poole)	526	228	OPR Best Pirates	(D Butler)	517
158	Lewsey Farm	(R Conway)	526	228	Inter Asagio	(S Stadel)	517
158	The 2 Uffies	(M Forde)	526	228	Road Madras FC 2nd	(P Bradley)	517
158	The Gentlemen	(D Grassick)	526	228	—	—	517
158	Hobbs Rangers	(R E Robinson)	525	228	Arabast	(G Howitt)	517
158	Red Star Richmond	(S T Gwinville)	525	228	Overhill Rovers	(M James)	517
168	Twilight United	(P C Dewhurst)	524	238	APD FC	(P Dowding)	517
168	Wells Wander	(A Walls)	524	238	Kims Kickers	(G Sutton)	516
168	Goals Guaranteed	(B Gordon)	524	238	Boyd's Bombers		

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With an established reputation as a high profile commercial practice, this City firm acts for a wide range of UK and international commercial clients including major media and telecommunications companies. It has a strong profile in the copyright, regulatory, broadcasting, film, entertainment, IT and communications industries and seeks a senior telecoms lawyer in the area to join its driving team. Ref: T17971

MARINE LITIGATION

To £70,000
Leading international shipping practice with a reputation for excellence seeks senior marine litigator with between 4 and 7 years' experience with a niche shipping practice or major P&I Club. Experience should comprise both wet and dry work but if only have one of these specialisms, will train on the other. Excellent opportunity. Ref: T18461

2-5 YEAR CORPORATE

To £50,000
Medium-sized City firm with an excellent working environment and good prospects for the right individuals seeks excellent 2-5 year qualified corporate lawyers to undertake a mix of private and public company work, venture capital, bids, floats and secondary equity raisings. A very broad mix of work and strong partnership prospects. Ref: T18596

SENIOR CONSTRUCTION

To £Partner
Medium-sized City practice seeks construction lawyer with at least 7 years' experience to join its team in about a year to 18 months. A great deal of existing work, including two major disputes for a well-known client. Need gravitas and leadership skills to take the role forward. Excellent opportunity and pivotal role within the department. Ref: T21570

CORPORATE FINANCE - In-House

To £Excellent
Top City trained corporate finance lawyer with between 6 months' and 2 years' experience sought by prestigious merchant bank. Experience of Blue and Yellow Book work preferred. This is an ideal opportunity for a first in-house role which will lead to a successful candidate in good stead for long-term career prospects. Ref: T7381

EC COMPETITION

To £Exceptional
Major City firm with one of the most respected EC Competition teams in Europe seeks first class lawyer with at least 4 years' experience to play a major function in its Brussels office. Work of the highest quality involving regular contact with all major European institutions. Exceptional opportunity. Ref: T22142

BANKING

To £31,000
Excellent opportunity for a junior banking lawyer to join this major City firm and to work with recognised experts in the field. With between 0-1 years' experience, you must have gained hands-on banking experience during articles and, if now qualified, since qualification. Ref: T24890

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Christopher Sweeney, Seamus Hoar or June Merritt (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-760 7527 or 0171-403 3727 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Doughty Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail christopher@qdrec.demon.co.uk



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EMPLOYMENT

To £50,000
Highly progressive and successful US firm with a major practice in London seeks an additional employment specialist to undertake a broad commercial/non-commercial workload. With between 1-4 years' relevant experience who matures in your obvious commitment and interest in the subject as well as your client getting/recruiting ability. Ref: T27200

BANKING - In-House

To £60,000
One of the largest banks in the world seeks technically able banking lawyers with between 2 and 5 years' experience to join its London office. The work will be primarily syndicated loan/project finance work with a fair degree of bilateral loans, property finance, aircraft finance, M&A's and foreign exchange transactions. Tremendous potential for job enlargement. Ref: T27336

CAPITAL MARKETS

To £80,000
Outstanding opportunity to join the London office of one of the leading US commercial practices in the City. With between 3-5 years' experience in banking law from a leading City firm, with a particular focus on capital markets and regulatory work, you will be joining a department in which ambition and drive are recognised and rewarded. Ref: T16595

CORPORATE TAX

To £38,000
Large, prestigious City practice with reputation in the taxation area seeks junior solicitor with 1-3 years' experience to join its dynamic team. With specific corporate tax experience, gained either in articles or post-qualification, as a respected firm, this is an opportunity to secure some of the most challenging corporate tax work in London. Ref: T14136

EQUITY COMPLIANCE - In-House

To £Generous
Top international investment house seeks UK/SOL lawyer with strong academic credentials and a minimum of 5-6 years' plus experience in European capital markets. Strong technical expertise in equity cash and derivatives markets, both domestic and international, as well as familiarity with UK compliance issues essential. Ref: T24589

PROPERTY

To £60,000
Top 5 commercial property practice in City currently handling an exciting array of instructions seeks further top quality solicitors between 1 and 6 years' qualified. High profile and tremendously varied workload. Must have strong technical skills with the commercial acumen to be a future partner. Ref: T15493

PENSIONS

To £50,000
One of the City's leading practices seeks one or more pension lawyers with between 1 and 4 years' experience to join its busy pensions department. With specific pension experience gained at a respected firm, or in-house, you will already have experience of employee benefits. Great amount of independence with solid support. Ref: T21913

PRIVATE PRACTICE & IN-HOUSE

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

PREMIUM
Niche City based IP firm has secured significant client base of household name multi-nationals through its strong referral network. Dynamic solicitor at the 2-3 year level is sought with relevant, hands-on experience of contentious and non-contentious domestic and international IP work including copyright, trade marks, patents, design rights and passing off. Successful candidate must be able to assume early responsibility. Highly competitive salary and benefits package. Ref: T27799

CITY BANKING

To £30-75,000
This City firm is seeking additional resources to expand its financial practice and is seeking work from major City competitors. Recent work includes high profile IPOs, complex projects, mergers, infrastructure and power projects. Assistance of partnership culture are sought at all levels. Significant salary packages will be offered. Ref: T27711

PROPERTY

To £45,000
Dynamic Property Department at highly regarded City firm offers excellent career opportunities to talented 1-4 year qualified lawyers with proven technical and well developed client handling skills. Counsel is a challenging mix of high profile developments, investment and retail work and some corporate support. Department continues to be one of the most well resourced in the City. Ref: T27694

CONSTRUCTION

To £41,000
Highly regarded Construction Department at major London practice seeks talented litigator 3-5 years' qualified. Specialist team has a significant employer and contractor client base with continued to produce a varied, challenging workload, often involving new ground in this fast moving industry sector. Vacancy will suit an ambitious, self-motivated litigator seeking fast track to partnership. Ref: T26609

GENERAL BANKING

To £40,000
Leading global commercial bank seeks a 3-4 year qualified banking lawyer to join its legal team, to take individual responsibility for mainstream banking, project and trade finance and other types of lending. Well supported business with opportunity for the lawyer to have commercial involvement with significant exposure to a number of business areas. Friendly and supportive environment. Ref: T26992

For further information regarding in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Hicks on 0171-377 0510 (0171-735 5548 evenings/weekends). For private practice vacancies please contact Sally Harrow, Miranda Smyth or Yasmin Phillips on 0171-377 0510 (0181-595 3396 evenings/weekends). Alternatively write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 St James Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail sally@zmb.co.uk

EMPLOYMENT

To £45,000
Progressive General London firm is putting together a dedicated employment team and seeks an assistant at the 3-4 year level to play a key role in the team's development. Firm is renowned for its creative approach to marketing and the successful candidate must be able to demonstrate a theoretical attitude and have experience of, or a desire to specialise in, contentious employment work. First class prospects. Ref: T20064

UNUSUAL GOALS

PREMIUM
Excellent opportunity for able and highly motivated commercial lawyer with 3-4 years' post qualification experience to join London office of highly regarded international firm. Some experience of, or a keen interest in, IT is desirable. Prospective candidates should be able to demonstrate a theoretical attitude and have experience of, or a desire to specialise in, contentious employment work. First class prospects. Ref: T20064

CORPORATE TAX

To £45,000
15-20 partner London firm with excellent reputation in several industry sectors seeks corporate tax lawyer with 3-4 years' experience in a range of M & A and other corporate/commercial work and also support employment, IP and telecoms lawyers. Unusual amount of private client work. Would suit a lawyer becoming over specialised in a larger firm seeking a broader role and significant client contact. Ref: T26609

LEADING EDGE TELECOMS

To £40,000
Highly regarded Telecom Group at 10-15 partner City firm has key vacancy for an assistant at around the 4 year level. Opportunity to join a rapidly growing group involved in providing ground breaking solutions from both commercial and regulatory standpoints. The successful candidate will need an excellent academic background, relevant experience in this sector and a desire to play a leading role in the further expansion of this key practice area. Ref: T20064

GOVERNANCE

To £40,000
Opportunity for a 3-4 year qualified company/commercial solicitor to join prestigious financial group as the number two in an expanding legal team. Work will be broad and will entail giving commercial advice to a variety of business areas with regular involvement in corporate transactions. Strong academic background essential as is the desire to be involved in commercial as well as legal issues. Ref: T20064

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HEAD OF TELECOMS

£ Equity
High profile, City practice of national law firm seeks a senior practitioner to coordinate ongoing work and to spearhead the growth of the Telecoms Unit. A senior position offering spectacular rewards.

INSOLVENCY

5 years +
One of the City's foremost insolvency units still hasn't experienced the end of the recession! Business is booming at this c80 partner firm, hence the need for a senior insolvency solicitor to deal with a full range of issues arising for the Big 6 Accountancy firms. Excellent prospects.

CORPORATE

2-4 years
Working on a 'corporate belt' in a large City firm! Seeking additional responsibility and a lifestyle if so, you as a high flying solicitor must consider this c45 partner firm, which handles the whole gamut of corporate work for international clients. An outstanding opportunity.

PROPERTY LIT

NQ - 2 years
A new position awaits a specialist litigator in the high profile team of this leading City firm. Major UK and international clients will offer a variety and quality of work unlikely to be matched elsewhere. Will suit an ambitious high calibre assistant.

CONSTRUCTION

3-5 years
Acting on behalf of major developers and retailers, this c30 partner firm requires a construction specialist to handle predominantly non-contentious work. You will be a good technician with clear ideas regarding marketing construction expertise to existing/potential clients.

HEAD OF PROPERTY

£ (US) Equity
Outstanding opportunity awaits 'heavyweight' lawyer (aged 33 years plus) in expanding London office of leading US law firm. Spectacular growth of both domestic and international corporate client base will provide a superb platform to an ambitious practice developer.

CONSTRUCTION

Partner
Frustrated at being no.2? Then the prospect of heading a smaller group in a substantial City firm will appeal. Live-wire practice developer with a part following is sought for this key role.

GERMAN SPEAKER

3 years +
Leading UK financial services organisation seeks ambitious corporate solicitor/Rechtsanwalt, based here or in Germany, to establish its first European office. Fully supported by the international legal team this position offers outstanding prospects.

TELECOMS

3-4 years
This complex and highly demanding practice area is one that this small successful City firm has adopted as one of its key specialisms. A telecoms solicitor with entrepreneurial flair is sought to act for UK and international clients.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

2-3 years
The property department of this well established c40 partner central London law firm, acts for major p/b's, institutions and private property companies on a full range of property issues and now seeks a bright, self-starter to join their key department.

To discuss any of the above appointments in detail, please contact Simon Janion or Simon Eagan on 0171 404 6669 (evenings/weekends: 01252 715302) or write to us, in complete confidence, at 6 Warwick Court, London WC1R 5DJ (fax 0171 404 0469).

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To apply, please send your CV with covering letter, and stating which position and publication is of interest, to Miss Pami Shah, HR Officer, Butterworths Ltd, Halsbury House, 35 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1EL. Closing date: 30 April 1996.



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will be held, in association with Clyde & Co at their London office, on May 15th 1996.

For further details of these seminars (both of which attract Law Society Continuing Education points), and of the new quarterly publication ART ANTIQUITY AND LAW please contact: The Director, Institute of Art and Law, 47 Francis Street, Leicester, LE2 2BE;

Tel/fax 0116 244 8870.

Bar Pro Bono Unit

A Bar Pro Bono Unit, handling mainly referral work which will be passed to senior barristers on a register, is to be launched in May 1996.

The above position, based at the unit's three offices in Gray's Inn, will initially be part-time, for 3 days a week, or for 5 mornings. Remuneration will be discussed at interview, but applicants may indicate expected salary range. The position will be reviewed after 6 months.

All-round administrative skills, preferably with some legal experience, are required. The ability to analyse and sort a varied caseload will be essential. Close liaison with barristers, solicitors, barristers' clerks and members of the public will require sound communication skills. Computer literacy is essential.

This will be a rewarding opportunity to help those having difficulty in obtaining advice on their legal problems.

Written applications, to include CV and two referees, should be sent by 25th April 1996 to Peter Goldsmith QC, Bar Pro Bono Project, 3 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4DB. Please mark the envelope 'Administrator Vacancy'.

ADMINISTRATOR

All Points South!

Telecoms - c£38,000 City
Medium sized practice with well developed IT department seeks Solicitor 2-3PQE to join busy team. Private practice background ideal, top quality experience and dynamic personality essential.

Commercial Property - c£30,000 City/West
Two new positions with name firms both with thriving property practices for Solicitors from 1-PQE to handle a range of development, landlord and tenant matters and secured lending work.

Employment - c£35,000 Berks
Solicitor with c3PQE is sought by leading firm to handle a mainly contentious caseload dealing with work arising from the firm's busy corporate team.

In-House Banking - to £45,000 City
Major bank seeks Lawyer with 3-4PQE to handle a broad range of work including consumer credit, product development and general retail banking matters.

In-House Energy - c£35,000+ Bens West
Major energy company seeks bright, commercially minded Lawyer with c2PQE to deal with a range of commercial work within a well established team. Energy experience not required.

Corporate Insurance - to £45,000 City
Solicitor with 3-5PQE sought to handle regulatory, transactional and product work relating to insurance companies and Lloyd's market. Will retain litigators seeking a change.

Shipping Litigation - c£35,000
Several firms as well as a number of in-house departments seek Lawyers with 2-4PQE to handle mainly charterparty and maritime arbitrations as well as cargo claims. Linguistic skills an asset but not essential.

Contact: Lynne McCarroll, Marianne Ferguson or Lucy Boyd
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Intellectual Property - c£30,000 Oxon
Leading firm seeks Solicitor 1-3PQE to carry out a broad range of commercial work with a high IP content, dealing with clients active in the publishing, IT, science and technology and retail sectors.

Construction - to £50,000 City
Leading international firm has new position for top notch construction Lawyer with c4PQE to handle both contentious and non-contentious matters.

Banking/Ship Finance - c£45,000 City
Specialist 2-5PQE sought by City practice to handle mix of banking and ship finance. Those with pure banking experience wishing to specialise will be trained.

Litigation - c£18,000 West
Three new positions have just arisen for Solicitors from NQ-1PQE to join the Lender Services Unit of large and busy practice.

Corporate/Commercial - c£45,000 Surrey
Thriving commercial practice has new requirement for City trained Solicitor with at least 5PQE to deal with mergers and acquisitions, M&Bs and M&Os.

Private Client - c£35,000 City
Large firm seeks City trained Solicitor 2PQE to deal with wills, probate and tax planning. Experience of offshore trusts work desirable.

Financial Services - to £45K + Bens H.Countries
Leading international group seeks in-house Lawyer to handle general legal matters as well as the legal aspects of developments internationally.

Corporate/Commercial - c£35,000 West End
Dynamic, expanding practice seeks young Solicitor 2PQE with commercial acumen to join a proactive team handling a national/international caseload.



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The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra being conducted by Daniele Gatti and inset (left) conductor Orwain Arwel Hughes and (right) cellist Lynn Harrell

Take a friend to an RPO concert — FREE

Today *The Times*, in association with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, offers you the opportunity to take a friend FREE to one of two concerts in the orchestra's inaugural series at the Royal Albert Hall. You can choose

to attend a concert on Sunday, May 12 or Tuesday, May 21. Tickets range in price from £10 to £27, and for any ticket you buy you will be given a second complimentary ticket of equal value valid for the same concert.

The two concerts feature some of the classics of the repertoire. At the Sunday concert on May 12, conducted by Orwain Arwel Hughes, you will be able to hear Holst's *The Planets* with a lady's chorus from the Royal Choral Society and Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* which will feature baritone Thomas Allen. Sunday's concert, Orwain Arwel Hughes has conducted all the UK symphony orchestras, and their respective choirs, and is creator and musical director of *The World Choir*.

Baritone Thomas Allen has performed everywhere, including La Scala, Milan, the Paris Opera house and the Metropolitan, New York. Mr Allen came to the rescue of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, two years ago when, hours after he landed back in London after singing *The Marriage of Figaro* in Los Angeles, he received a

desperate phone call asking him to step in because their singer had lost his voice. Fortunately it was the same role he had been singing in America.

The concert on Tuesday May 21 will be conducted by the Russian Yuri Temirkanov and features Dvorak's *Cello Concerto* and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*.

Yuri Temirkanov studied violin at the Leningrad Conservatoire. He made his debut with the RPO in 1977 and succeeded André Previn as principal conductor three years ago.

The cello soloist is New Yorker Lynn Harrell who is one of the most sought after performers in the world. He began studying the cello at nine and at 12 made his debut with the Dallas Symphony.

The RPO, founded by Sir Thomas Beecham in 1946, is making its London home at the Royal Albert Hall.

Daniele Gatti, the young Italian maestro and music director designate, will take over the musical direction of the orchestra in September.

He follows a line of distinguished music directors including Antal Dorati, Walter Weller, André Previn and Vladimir Ashkenazy. There are nine inaugural concerts in all and the two to which you can take a friend free of charge are likely to be very popular so early booking is advisable.

HOW TO APPLY
Tick the appropriate box(es) to indicate the price of ticket(s) you wish to purchase. Make cheques payable to: Royal Albert Hall and send with your completed coupon, to: The Ticket Shop, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AP to arrive no later than Wednesday, May 8, 1996. Only one free ticket per paid for ticket will be issued.



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Today we feature the Baroque and Classical CD track listing. Tomorrow and Thursday we will publish the track listings of *The Romantics* and *Nationalism*. Simply complete the coupon below and send a cheque or postal order for £1.98 per CD, payable to CD Ltd, to cover the cost of postage and handling. You can also use the credit card section. Send your order and remittance to: *The Times Classical*

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The Baroque and Classical track listing
1. VIVALDI *The Four Seasons*, 1.
La Primavera (5:21)
2. PACHELBEL *Canon* (5:34)
3. BACH *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 Allegro* (5:47)
4. HAYDN *Symphony No. 103 Drum Roll*, 1st movt. *adagio allegro con spirito* (10:00)
5. MOZART *Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major* (7:05)
6. BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 3 in E flat major Eroica* 1st movt. *allegro con brio* (14:45)
7. MOZART *Violin Concerto No. 5*, Turkish (9:41)
Total playing time of CD is 57.46 minutes.

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BRIEFINGS

Eight out of ten small businesses have never considered exporting, according to a report from Barclays Bank. Companies fail to explore new markets because they think their product is not suitable, or that it is too complicated to move into exporting. Realising your export potential, a Barclays guide to exporting, is available from local branches or by calling Peter Oatley on 01203 534455.

Practical advice for small and medium-sized businesses on doing business in America will be offered in a series of one-day seminars run by Grant Thornton. The seminars will be held in London, Windsor, Leicester, Warrington, Leeds and Glasgow between April 30 and May 9. The cost is £40 per person. Call 0171 728 2757.

A service called Matchmaker to help small businesses to find a suitable public relations consultancy has been started by the Institute of Public Relations. Participating companies on the institute's list cover 91 industry sectors. Call 0171 253 5151.

A free guide to franchising has been produced by Midland Bank. It advises on how to calculate the costs of setting up a franchise, how to choose the most suitable option, and what to look for before signing a contract. Call 0800 180 180.

Fortcoming franchise exhibitions include Edinburgh (April 26-27) and Manchester (June 28-29). Call the British Franchise Association on 0171 727 8400.

Veronica Heath on a high-quality chocolate maker who is planning to rival the Belgians

The First World War had just ended when a small confectionery business was launched on a kitchen table overlooking Loch Ewe in Wester Ross. Clemence Clarke was able to provide a living for herself and her fiancé, invalided out of the Forces, with her expertise in making luxury chocolates. Today the business, known as Clarke's of Loch Ewe, has a turnover of £200,000.

Stephen Nutt, the business's marketing manager, said: "Clemence's spirit still watches over us. Her original recipes form the basis of our range."



Stephen Nutt, left, and Adrian Smith check the quality of Clarke's of Loch Ewe's Classic selection

breakthrough came when we landed a marketing scholarship from the Kellogg Institute in America in 1994. There were only five scholarships awarded. It was basically a programme designed to help individuals to market their wares — tremendously helpful."

Clarke's is now dealing with inquiries from the United States and Japan. Mail order selections can be gift-wrapped in personalised boxes.

Mr Nutt said: "The manufacturing process is highly skilled and we use only the finest ingredients. All the chocolates are hand-made and wrapped in foil, tissue and distinctive boxes. We aim to be up in the same league as the very best of the Belgian chocolate houses."

Clarke's is on 01890 883153.

YOUR OWN BUSINESS 31 Employers face some taxing problems

By ROBERT BRUCE

DATES TO MEET

Deadline	Action required
April 19	Month 12 PAYE and NIC payments
May 19	Submits P35, P14 and P38 forms
June 6	Submits P11D, P11D(b) and P9D forms
June 19	Class 1A NIC payments

FILE tax forms on time and correctly or pay the penalty. That is the message being hammered home to employers by the Inland Revenue.

Particularly taxing for employers are the forms dealing with employees and expenses. While advice on information on the new demands of self-assessment from 1996-97 onwards, employers may find there is rather less helpful guidance on how to deal with this year's forms.

Simon Robinson, a partner at Shipley, the accountancy firm, said: "It has become tougher for small employers. The Inland Revenue became more draconian over this in an effort to make people get down to doing the work."

For example, an error on a P11D form, which details the expenses of directors and other highly paid employees, can give rise to a £3,000 penalty, and if the error is repeated on other forms the penalty can be £3,000 for each.

National Insurance Contributions (NICs), are increasingly a minefield for the unwary. Employers, for example, must pay NICs on amounts paid to meet employees' personal liabilities, like the cost of using a home telephone for some business purposes.

Reportable benefits are diverse and may not be obvious. A company van may be taken home in the evening by an employee and brought back in the morning. Even if those journeys are the only private

use of the van these will count as a benefit. The same pitfalls occur over newspapers, and companies should watch out where they are reimbursing employees for the cost of trade periodicals or newspapers.

Other areas likely to cause problems this year include company cars. The Revenue's new overnight allowance for business expenses and a whole range of benefits in kind.



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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: none scheduled.
Finals: Dewhurst Group, Henderson American Capital & Income Trust, Torday & Carlisle.

Economic Statistics: UK industrial production for February, UK manufacturing output for February, US wholesale inventories for February.

TOMORROW

Interims: Murray VCT.

Finals: Alpha Airports, Charnos, Intermediate Capital Group, Moss Bros, Yule Catto, Reeco, Ruberoid, Sentry Farming, Jefferson Smurfit.

Economic Statistics: UK Confederation of British Industry distributive trades survey for March, UK cyclical indicators for February, German unemployment for March, French consumer sentiment survey for March.

THURSDAY

Interims: Cradley Group Holdings, Prestwick Holdings, Toye & Co.

Finals: Amec, Eadie Holdings, Nurdin & Peacock, Swallowfield, Tudor.

Economic Statistics: UK global trade balance for January, non-European Union trade balance for February, UK final M4 money supply data for February, UK producer prices for March, US weekly jobless claims, UK Staffordshire South East by-election, US retail sales for March, US Michigan consumer sentiment for April.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled.

Finals: Abbot Group, Tracker Network.

Economic Statistics: US consumer prices for March, US real earnings for March, US business inventories for February, US Atlanta federal survey for March, French preliminary consumer prices for March.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Amec escapes to a brighter future

AMEC: After last year's escape from the clutches of Kvaerner, which has since turned its attention to Trafalgar House, it seems unlikely that full-year figures on Thursday will hold much in the way of surprises.

Amec, whose chairman is Sir Alan Cockshaw, indicated in its defence document at the time of the Kvaerner bid that profits for 1995 would be pitched at about £20 million, compared with £26.3 million last time.

Scott Fulton, construction analyst with Merrill Lynch Smith New Court, is looking for a final figure of about £24.2 million with the final 3p dividend maintained. He points out that rival construction companies, such as Taylor Woodrow, John Laing, Alfred McAlpine and Mowlem, have all weighed in with full-year figures towards the top end of expectations. There is no reason to believe that Amec will be any different.

Amec is not your run-of-the-mill construction contractor. It is heavily involved in specialist areas such as offshore services and maintenance turnkey contracts. This is one of the reasons that Kvaerner was attracted to Amec in the first place.

Its other contract work is expected to have been positive despite the gloomy backdrop for the industry overall. But the real benefit of recent improvements is unlikely to be reflected until the current year, with the group having already forecast profits of £35 million.

Merrill Lynch Smith New Court is looking for a final outcome of £34 million.

NURDIN & PEACOCK: Last week's jump in the share price was prompted by renewed talk of a bid. The last attempt by its 14 per cent shareholder, SHV Makro, was roundly rejected. The privately owned Dutch group, which owns the Makro



After repelling the Norwegians, Sir Alan Cockshaw is preparing to unveil full-year figures

chain of cash-and-carry stores, had offered to swap its cash-and-carry assets for half of Nurdin's share capital. It is now free to make a hostile offer should it wish to, and this will no doubt have been behind the recent flurry of speculative activity in the shares. The rival Booker has

also been considered a possible bidder in the past. There is clearly some attraction for these various predators, although you would hardly credit it from the group's performance in recent years, which has been disappointing to say the least.

There has been a steady stream

of boardroom departures and the Cargo Warehouse venture was sold off last year to Sainsbury. Any hopes that conditions may have begun to improve were scuppered by the group's recent profits warning.

According to David Stoddart, of Henderson Crosthwaite, there

is scope for some improvement in pre-tax profits, but it is likely to be marginal. Profits at the halfway stage were boosted to the tune of £8.1 million by the sale of the Cargo Club business.

Estimates for the full year range from £19 million to £20 million, compared with £16.7 million last time. There was evidence of a pick-up in sales during the second half, but this will have been achieved at the expense of margins.

No doubt the City will be anxious to hear what David Jones, the chief executive who arrived from Northern Foods last year, has got to say about the group's future direction.

MOSS BROS: Hopes are high for the menswear retailer, which includes names like the Savoy Tailors' Guild, the Suit Company and Cecil Gee, when it unveils full-year figures tomorrow. The group has been enjoying a period of sustained growth, which will account for the strength of the share price. The shares closed last week a whisker below their best ever at 744p.

At the halfway stage, the group unveiled a 67 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £3.21 million, which was above market forecasts. This time round, the brokers are looking for anything between £9.5 million and £10.5 million compared with £7.4 million last time. Moss Bros is planning to open a further 35 stores during the next couple of years, raising the total to 150.

JEFFERSON SMURFIT: The paper industry has had more than its fair share of problems in the past year, and events there will form the main focus of interest when the Irish paper and packaging group reports tomorrow.

Brokers are looking in a range of £1405 million to £1420 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

All eyes fall on the US

The financial markets will start the week focused on the path of the US economy after last Friday's better than expected March employment figures. Further fodder for the debate about exactly how strong the American recovery might be will come on Thursday with March figures for US retail sales.

There will also be producer prices and consumer prices figures, particularly important to the Treasury bond market, which is in the early stages of paranoia about rising inflation and interest rates.

However, there is also plenty of food for thought in Britain. On the political front, there is the Staffordshire South East by-election on Thursday. If the Government loses, as expected, its majority in the Commons will be cut to one, a development likely to prompt nervousness in gilt and currency markets.

On the statistical front, the week kicks off today with figures for February industrial and manufacturing production. According to a consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International, industrial production is expected to have risen 0.5 per cent after a fall of 0.5 per cent in January. This would leave year-on-year growth at 1.4 per cent, the same as in January.

Manufacturing industry is expected to have grown only 0.3 per cent, reducing its year-on-year growth to 0.5 per cent, from 1.1 per cent in January. Output is still being depressed as companies try to adjust to last year's huge involuntary build-up of stocks. Tomorrow sees publication of the latest distributive sales survey from the Confederation of British Industry, which will give an idea of retail trade in March. Cyclical indicators are also published for February.

There will be more reminders of the weak performance of continental economies. German figures for manufacturing orders are expected early this week and are forecast to have fallen 0.3 per cent in February after a 0.1 per cent decline in January. Orders are running well below last year's levels. Retail sales are also due out and are expected to show no year-on-year growth. German unemployment figures, due tomorrow, should show another rise. The Bank of France holds a council meeting on Thursday and may trim interest rates.

JANET BUSH

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Golf at the Grove

THE Grove in Watford, once home to the Earl of Clarendon and owned by British Rail for the past 20 years, is soon to be turned into a 100-bedroom hotel and golf course by the Levy brothers.

The 18th century Grade II listed mansion, a former BR management training centre, was sold for about £2 million in the wake of rail privatisation. Its new owners, Daniel and Stuart Levy, who also

own the Athenaeum in London and the Rummymede Hotel in Surrey, are currently deep in negotiation with a local farmer who keeps 110,000 chickens on 275 acres of the 312-acre estate. The Levys want to buy him out of the remainder of his tenancy.

Heads in the sand

RUFFLED feathers in the ostrich world appear to have gone unnoticed at Harpers & Queen, which bails valise as the meat of the millennium. Whether you eat it, wear it or

invest in it, the glossy mag informs its armchair farmers: "One such company guarantees a return of 57 per cent, a high-flying investment for an earthbound bird."

Egg found

LONDON'S streets were quieter than they might have been over the Easter weekend, for guests at the Four Seasons Hotel were busy seeking an egg worth £845. Hidden at the hotel was an 18-carat gold egg in turquoise enamel, designed by Sarah Fabergé for the St

Petersburg Collection. It was found nestled between tea and toast on a room service breakfast tray.

EMPLOYEES of BAA, the former British Airports Authority, are getting in a flap over uniforms at a new pub on the Fulham Road. Bar staff at The Tap, named after the farming term for a ram, have been seen in uniforms emblazoned with the motif "BAA STAFF", not unlike those seen at Gatwick and Heathrow.

MORAG PRESTON

Why political risk factor should attract investors

One of the main reasons gilts are out of favour is supposedly political risk. In so far as this relates to a change of government, it is difficult to understand why people do not believe this is already discounted in current yields and spreads versus other markets. Labour has enjoyed a large poll lead over the Conservatives for many months. No governing party has ever recovered such a poll deficit. Given that the election is, at most, 12 months away, investors ought to know that most of the remaining life of the majority of gilts they are holding will be under a Labour government. So why do

some people think "political risk" is a good reason not to hold gilts? It is argued that the time horizon of the market is very short and only once the election campaign is almost upon us will it factor in political risk. However, the Government's majority will be down to one after Thursday's by-election. We may only be a death, a defection or a parliamentary deadlock away from a general election.

A more convincing argument relates to the last days of this Government. What last-ditch desperation on policy will they be tempted into? How will the markets react? Even these concerns should be at least partly factored in.

What is the evidence? Firstly, spreads between gilt and

tenor of government ought to be more decisive.

With gilts underperforming in recent weeks and the inflation differential with Germany set to fall, gilts look a better bet than most other bond markets. The political risk premium in gilts probably represents an opportunity to buy rather than a reason to avoid them.

There may still be a good reason to be nervous about gilts in the short term, but that has little to do with politics or economic fundamentals exclusive to the UK. The main risk comes from a continuing recovery in world economic activity and a continuing slide in US bond prices. Whether world bond yields go up or down, gilts should go, on a relative basis, be one of the better-performing bond markets.

DOUG JONES
NaiWest Investment Management

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Exchange index 83.6 (+0.2)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

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Tokyo Nikkei Average 21471.16 (+64.31)

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Easter is supposed to be about hope and new beginnings, especially for those in despair. There has not been much of it about those facing economic gloom. Instead, from all sides, they are offered realism. Last week's jobs summit in Lille provided a typical exhibition of this school of thought. It was variously told that the answer lay in sound finances, lower government spending, cuts in welfare payments, more competition, more flexible labour markets, greater labour mobility, more training, faster change and lower wages to cope with competition from the developing world.

Many of these are desirable. Together, they offer a cruel myth rather than a beacon of hope for those who are excluded from dignity, security and a reasonable income from their labour. They are not even compatible with one another.

Stable, non-inflationary growth certainly provides the best background for business and individuals to plan ahead. So it is the best recipe for the dynamic economies of Asia. If stability requires high real interest rates and low economic growth, however, it will not create enough real new jobs. Nor will it make mature economies more dynamic. On the Continent, at least, the rush to meet the Maastricht tests and defend currencies has raised unemployment.

Unless the indigent are just left to their own devices, more flexible labour markets, greater competi-

Cruel new myths give competition a bad name



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

tion, lower pay and labour mobility tend to raise public spending and taxation. The lesson from America, the paragon of flexibility, is that a fast-moving hire and fire labour market goes with high unemployment. Until recently, low-paid workers paid for job creation there, gaining nothing from rising output.

At the moment, America's 5% per cent jobless rate looks pretty good in Europe, where Britain's 8 per cent compares with 12 per cent in France and worse in Spain. But America has achieved that only after four years of solid growth. It has not done much better in past decades when that 5% per cent would have been outrageous in Britain and the welfare state was, consequently, affordable. It hardly matters whether a flexible market needs a pool of unemployed to avoid inflation, or that there are just a lot of people between jobs. Compare that with Japan. In Europe, labour mobility breaks down "free" family welfare systems. Lower wages for fringe jobs force more family members into the labour market.

Internal competition and imports from low-wage countries are axing swaths of jobs. The stock market

presses big companies to "downsize" to raise returns and regulators impose ersatz competition on utilities to swap jobs for price cuts. Last week, the CBI/Coopers & Lybrand survey of the financial sector revealed that, thanks to rising competition and computers, nearly half the firms surveyed expected to axe jobs at the same time as they looked forward to more business. This may be good for the economy, but not for jobs, unless cheaper insurance policies, telephone calls and industrial power stimulate higher growth elsewhere in the economy.

Conventional wisdom says that small and medium-sized enter-

prises, or SMEs, create the new jobs. In America, since 1993, the fastest job creation has been in companies employing an average 500 people. State encouragement should be concentrated on such young, growing companies. Even this, however, is not as simple as it seems. True Leith, the caterer and enterprise guru, told a small business audience last week that the best aid they could get from government would be state subsidies for redundancy payments. Yes, enterprise companies can shrink as well as grow.

If ambitious proprietors of small firms have special protection from regulations, employment laws and both personal and company tax, no wonder they prosper at the expense of leviathans. Big companies are supposed to be fat enough to pay for these social "extras". But they are also supposed to have become lean and hungry. No wonder they are shedding jobs so fast. Either the SMEs should lose their unfair advantage, in which case they might create fewer jobs, or the job-losing giants should enjoy the same derogations, cutting standards.

Given these less fashionable realities, protection was almost bound to

make a spectral appearance at the Lille Talkfest, via the unlikely revival of an old alliance between France and America. Unless someone can find some reason why European economies should grow at a pace not seen since the postwar catch-up period, the unmentionable suddenly becomes attractive. If permanent pressure to adjust to global competition makes poorer workers' living standards more likely to fall than to rise, ensures that jobs are insecure and forces companies to cut employment to the bone, free trade and competition begin to seem public virtues the unemployed can no longer afford.

Britain opposed a code of minimum labour standards for trade, not least because it was the thin end of a wedge that might later be inserted into the European single market. But Britain is the biggest beneficiary of EU protection of geriatric industries. Manufacturing is recovering and unemployment lower because non-EU manufacturers need a base within the EU's walls and English is the language of multinationals.

Free trade and competition have brought huge benefits to living standards. But they should not be taken for granted. If European governments think these are vital ingredients for success, they must adjust tax, spending and many another policy to make them work for the poor and unemployed voters of advanced countries. There is an alternative. Lectures are not enough.

Jon Ashworth and Robert Miller on the new look at the Serious Fraud Office

Dented image brought to book

The Serious Fraud Office has a seriously new image. Staff return from the Easter break to a newly structured office, based on multi-disciplinary teams, well placed to tackle an increasingly heavy workload. The move marks the boldest attempt yet to shake off an unhappy association with bungled raids, cavalier investigations, and embarrassing acquittals.

Kevin and Ian Maxwell and George Walker are among high-profile acquittals after marathon trials costing millions of pounds. Roger Levitt received a token sentence after a plea-bargain with the SFO went wrong, and Asil Nadir trumped the courts by fleeing Britain before he could come to trial. The SFO enjoys dozens of unsung successes, but it is the high-profile failures that are remembered. Persuading the public to forget will be no mean task.

Under the new look, the SFO has reorganised itself into five teams of lawyers and accountants, each headed by a senior lawyer and liaising with regional police forces across the UK. Team leaders include Robert Wardle, who led the Elizabeth Forsyth investigation, and James Kellock, who oversaw the Barings inquiry. The threshold for investigating cases has dropped from £5 million to £1 million, and an extension to the Section 2 powers has led to a surge in co-operation with overseas agencies, including the FBI. The new image promises much, even if the continuing reliance on juries makes the outcome of "show-stopper" fraud cases as much of a lottery as ever.

In the past year, the SFO has secured 19 convictions in 12 trials involving 24 defendants. About 70 cases are currently "live", and there has been a big rise in requests for assistance from countries as diverse as Germany, the UK, the Netherlands, and Argentina. Many of the requests centre on the use of Section 2 powers to seize documents and interrogate suspects. The Government agreed to extend the use of these controversial powers just over a year ago, providing foreigners with a "fast track" means of obtaining information in the UK. The SFO hopes to benefit through increased co-operation in its own overseas



High-profile cases included George Walker, left, Elizabeth Forsyth, Kevin and Ian Maxwell, and Roger Levitt

inquiries. The SFO's approach to prosecuting fraud cases has evolved from the old system of pressing as many charges as possible and backing them up with a veritable mountain of paperwork. Now, the approach is one of simplicity. Fewer charges are put, and are backed up with less, but generally more damning, documentation.

The reforms follow the Davies Committee's report of March 1995, which advised against merging the SFO with

the Crown Prosecution Service. Thus relieved, the SFO set about assessing internal management structure and relations with the police — both potential areas of conflict. Many of the SFO's past problems have been attributed to internal disputes between lawyers, accountants and police.

The immediate changes are the work of George Staple, the SFO director widely criticised for his decision to mount a second trial against Kevin Maxwell. Mr Staple, who

retires in April 1997, believes the SFO is well placed to tackle the next inevitable cycle of serious fraud.

He believes that the five-team structure will help the SFO to cope with its greater workload. Each team will adopt its own group of regional police forces in the hope of improving relations.

Mr Staple insists that morale is good, but admits frustration that the SFO's many successes go largely unreported. He said: "I think the

taxpayer gets good value from the SFO. Before the SFO, these cases weren't done very well. We didn't have the know-how: we didn't have the powers to conduct the investigation. The whole approach was very different."

The increased interplay with the regional police forces is witnessed in the ongoing case of Rom Data, a failed West Country computer firm. The SFO investigation, codenamed Operation Gale, was launched last autumn in conjunction

with Devon and Cornwall police. The operation was later extended to take in other companies.

Internationally, the Barings inquiry tested the SFO's new-found mettle. Five years ago, the SFO might well have succumbed to the all-party pressure from MPs and a Commons early day motion to bring Nick Leeson back to the UK. Leeson pledged to plead guilty to false accounting and obtaining money by deception. In a series of "under caution" interviews in his Frankfurt prison cell, he gave the SFO the necessary evidence to secure a conviction against him.

However, combating fraud has become an international effort, and up to 80 per cent of the SFO's caseload involves at least one, and very often three or four, overseas jurisdictions. Under the auspices of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on money laundering, which comprises 26 governments, including the UK, various accords have been signed. These, coupled with other mutual co-operation treaties between different countries, mean that a defendant will generally be tried in the jurisdiction in which the crime is committed. Leeson's activities centred on Singapore, and the SFO argued that he should go on trial there.

The SFO has enjoyed a recent run of successes, culminating in the Forsyth conviction. Mohammed Naviede, the former chairman and chief executive of Arrows, was sentenced to nine years over the £100 million collapse of his business empire. Charles Deacon, a solicitor, got nine years for stealing pension funds from the Belling pension fund.

Apart from conviction rates, it is hard to gauge how effective the SFO has been in fighting fraud. Anecdotal evidence suggests that fraudsters who had considered setting up a UK base from which to launch scams against investors in other countries have been deterred.

Attention is turning increasingly to offshore centres such as the Seychelles, whose local laws have been dubbed a charter for money-launderers. SFO lawyers are having to drop potential prosecutions because of the obstacles placed in their way by small island states. A change of image is not always enough.

KEY DATES IN THE HISTORY OF THE SFO

AUG 1990: Guinness I trial results in conviction of Ernest Saunders, Gerald Ronson, Anthony Parnes, and Jack Lyons. Saunders later takes his case to the European Court of Human Rights.

JUNE 1991: Robert Miller, sole director of Dunsdale Securities, jailed for six years on fraud and theft charges. Freed in March 1993 after serving 21 months.

FEB 1992: Peter Clowes convicted of theft and fraud after 112-day trial. Sentenced to ten years in prison, but freed after four years. Now suing the Home Secretary.

AUG 1992: Final Blue Arrow defendants cleared in one of worst debacles for SFO. First four of 14 defendants found guilty, but cleared on appeal.

FEB 1993: Thomas Ward cleared of stealing £52 million from Guinness. Ward claimed the payment was a success fee.

SEPT 1993: Syed Akbar jailed for six years in the first of a string of Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) cases. BCCI remains a high-spot for the SFO.

NOV 1993: Roger Levitt pleads guilty to misleading financial regulators. Sentenced to 180 hours' community service.

MARCH 1994: Wallace Duncan Smith jailed for six years over £100 million banking fraud.

MAY 1994: Nazmudin Virani, former head of Control Securities, sentenced to

2½ years for hoodwinking BCCI's auditors. Freed in August 1995.

OCT 1994: George Walker cleared of orchestrating £19.3 million profits fraud at Brent Walker. Wilfred Aquilina, former finance director, convicted of one charge of false accounting and fined £25,000.

JAN 1996: Kevin and Ian Maxwell, and Larry Trachtenberg, former adviser, cleared of £122 million conspiracy to defraud Maxwell pensioners. SFO announces plans for second Maxwell trial.

MARCH 1996: Elizabeth Forsyth, former aide to Asil Nadir, convicted of handling nearly £400,000 in stolen funds. Sentenced expected on April 24.

Death, here is thy sting

Venom: Jellyfish. Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

Death will come as an immense vexation to Matthew Parris because he says it will stop him getting answers to all sorts of questions about all sorts of things. Jellyfish, for instance, which occupy the mind of *The Times* columnist as he jogs along the Spanish beach that is bespangled with them. Is the jellyfish capable of nostalgia? Can it experience regret? Jeremy Grange offers little help in his A to Z of the beautiful but often lethal sea creature. Although Parris hates the thought of being snuffed out so soon, even he does not know how soon. When it comes to the jellyfish, however, this latest edition of *Venom* can measure the span of mortality. Only a bullet, it says, kills faster than the fish some call the Electric Lady.

Making Sense. Radio 4, 8.30pm.

It's all silver-lined clouds in the first of Charles Handy's four inquiries into the changing face of the jobs market in Britain. But he ends his programme with a warning: later in the series, some silver linings will prove to have clouds. In a nutshell, Handy's philosophy is that the "jobs for life" era is over once and for all and that the "sector career" will replace it in the shape of a succession of short-term engagements with no guarantee of a repeat booking. Handy gives me the impression that workaholics will get short shrift from him. For life to be a balanced whole, he says, there must be time to be as well as time to do.

Peter Devall

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00pm Chris Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 8.00pm Kevin Connolly 12.00 Lisa 'Anson', incl. at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00pm Dave Pearce, incl. at 5.30-5.45pm Evening Session 10.00pm Mark Radford 11.00pm Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00pm Sarah Kennedy 7.30pm Wake Up to Wogan 9.30pm Ken Bruce 11.30pm Jenny Young 1.30pm The 12.30pm Throwing 3.30pm Ed Stewart 5.00pm John Dunne 7.00pm Hayes over Britain 8.30pm Tackling with Verne 9.00pm Can't Stop The Music 10.00pm The Elton John Songbook 10.30pm The Jamieson 12.00pm Steve Madden including at 1.30pm Pause for Thought 3.00pm-6.00pm Alex Lester, including at 3.30pm Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00pm Morning Reports 6.00pm The Breakfast Programme, incl. 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, incl. 10.35 News from Europe 11.30pm Environment 12.00pm Midweek 1.15pm The 12.30pm Moneycheck 1.15pm Entertainment News 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five, incl. 3.15pm Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00pm Invertebrate Nationwide, with Julian Worraker 6.45pm Entertainment News 7.00pm News Extra, with Valerie Sanderson 7.35pm The Tuesday Match 10.00pm News Talk, with Nigel Cassidy 11.00pm News Tonight 12.05pm After Hours 2.05pm All Night, with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

6.00pm Sandy Warr 7.00pm Simon Bates 10.00pm Jonathan King 10.30pm Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Rutherford 4.00pm Scott Crisheim 7.00pm Sean Bolger 10.00pm James White 1.00pm-6.00pm Ian Collins

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00pm Russ 'n' John 9.00pm Richard Skinner 12.00pm Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.30pm Paul Coyne 10.00pm Mark Forrest 2.00pm-6.00pm Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00pm On Air Bach (Triple Concerto in A minor, BWV 1041), Kachaturian (Dance Suite), Strauss (Der Abend, Op 34 No 1), Torkel (Luscious), Berlioz (Overture Benvenuto Cellini, Weber (Clarinet Concerto No 1 in F minor)

9.00pm Morning Collection, with Catriona Young, Verdi (Overture: La Forza del destino), Bruch (Lullaby), Chopin (Two Polonaises, Op 40), Handel (Ode for St Cecilia's Day)

10.00pm Musical Encounters, Tchaikovsky (Gopak), Stravinsky (The Soldier's Tale, excerpt), 1933 Artist of the Week Boris Berezovsky, piano Medtner (Forgotten Melodies Nos 4 and 5), 10.30pm Gabrieli (His est illic de), Mercadante (Decimino 1), Mozart (Chloris my scold of it, K 305), Berg (Four Pieces, Op 5), Bach (Air on the G String), Brahms (Symphonies Nos 1 and 2), Fugue, BWV 933), Liszt (Erläuterung transkribiert No 4, Mäzsepp)

12.00pm Composer of the Week: Georg Muffat, includes: Concerto Grosso No 6 in A minor (Quis hic?), and Toccata No 12 in B flat (Apparatus music-organico)

1.00pm BBC Festival of Brass, Grimethorpe Colliery Band, Arthur Sullivan (Overture Solent Forts), Philip Wilby (Unholy Sonnets), Wilfred Heaton (Concert Music), Kenneth Downie (Puccini Variations)

2.00pm Stephen Hough, piano, Copland (Variations)

Schumann (Kreisleriana), Mozart (12 variations in C on Ah, vous dirai-je Maman), Rachmaninov (Humoresque in G, Op 10 No 5; Melody in E, Op 10 No 3), Tchaikovsky (Humoresque in E minor, Op 10 No 2; Dumka, Op 59); Kreisler, arr. Rachmaninov (Liebesleid), Tchaikovsky, arr. Rachmaninov (Dance of the Little Swans); Pabst / Hough (Concert Para phrase on Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty) (1st movement)

3.40pm The BBC Orchestras, BBC Philharmonic under Vassily Sinaisky, Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D, Ballet, The Nutcracker, Act 2)

5.00pm The Music Machine, Nos 1 in Tune, includes: Robert Johnson (The Wily Warrant), Hayden (Piano Trio in E flat, H XV 11), Strauss (Brennende Lieder)

7.30pm Helle Orchestra, under Kent Nagano, Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 10 in B minor), Mahler (Symphony No 9)

9.00pm Between Heaven and Hell, with Michael Kuslow and Ben Kingsley

9.25pm Karlowicz-Gifford Duo, Glinka (Sonata in E minor, Op 25); Paganini (Sonata No 11 in A minor, Centone di sonate)

10.00pm Music Restored, Helen Garrison introduces pieces by Mozart, Glinka, Schubert and Rossini

10.45pm Night Waves, 11.30pm Composer of the Week: Franz Schubert, includes: Overture, Die Verjaehrigte, and Piano Sonata in G, D 894

12.30am-1.00am Jazz Notes

RADIO 4

6.00am News Briefing 6.10pm Farming Today 6.25pm Prayer for the Day 6.30pm, incl. 7.25pm, 8.25pm Sport 7.45pm Thought for the Day 8.45pm Tips from Women Gardeners 8.55pm Weather

9.00am News 9.05pm Vincent Harris 0177-480-4444

10.00am News; Venom (FM only) See Choice

10.00pm Daily Service (LW only)

10.15pm This Scepter'd Isle (LW only)

10.30pm Woman's Hour

11.30am All in the Mind, Professor Anthony Clare explores morality and personal values in the first of a new six-part series

12.00pm News; You and Yours, with Mark Easton

12.25pm Double Vision, Once again Miles Kingston and Edward Enfield go head to head in the radio chat show with two hosts 12.55pm Weather

1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40pm The Archers 1.55pm Shipping Forecast

2.00pm News; Books & Company, In the sixth of eight programmes, John Walsh looks at the best of the season's cookbooks (1)

2.30pm Compelling Notes with Brian Kay, looks at English light music with the composers Ernest Tomlinson and Alan Owen

3.00pm The Afternoon Shift 4.00pm News 4.05pm Kaleidoscope Double, by Daphne Glazer being married to a hwn can lead to twice as many problems in life (1)

5.00pm 5.50pm Shipping Forecast 5.55pm Weather

8.00pm Six O'Clock News 8.30pm The Board Game, with Nigel Cassidy and panel Stephen Bayley, Paul Burden, Alastair Ross, Goody and Nigel Whitaker

7.00pm News 7.05pm The Archers 7.20pm File on 4, Mark Whitaker reports on current affairs and issues of the week

8.00pm Science Now, Peter Evans explores the scientific side of (1)

8.30pm Making Sense, See Choice

9.00pm In Touch, Tony Barring with news, views and information for visually impaired people

9.30pm Kaleidoscope, Paul Vaughan talks to 1993 Booker Prize winning author Roddy Doyle about his new novel, The Woman Who Walked in Doors (1) 9.55pm Weather

10.00pm The World Tonight, with Ian Hogg

10.45pm Book at Bedtime: Stalin's Nose, Alister McGowan reads Rory MacLean's story (710)

11.00pm Mediumwave, An in depth look at the week's events in the media (1)

11.30pm Four Corners, The last in the series of off-beat travel reports, Fergal Keane reports from Sri Lanka and Adam Fowler reports from the Russian Far East as the programme takes a look at some of the world's flourishing separatist movements (1)


12.00pm News and 12.27pm Weather 12.30pm The Late Book: Devil in a Blue Dress, Paul Winfield reads Walter Mosley's novel (710) 12.45pm Shipping Forecast 1.00am As World Service.

FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1 FM 97.9-99.8, RADIO 2 FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3 FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4 FM 92.4-94.6, LW 198, MW 720, RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 909, WORLD SERVICE, MW 648, LW 108.8 (12.45-5.55am), CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8, MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO UK, MW 1053, 1085, Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

'RANTING ON

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In the spring time... when birds do sing

The Mad Scheduler, a beast locked in a cage for most of the year but released for Easter and other holidays, is consistent in his inconsistency. In particular, his manic approach to programming dictates that the standard junctions of viewing life will all be moved for the duration.

Thus the BBC Nine O'Clock News can be relied upon to turn up either an hour early or five minutes late and it's News at Ten appears, as it's, at 11 (in last night's case). Why is this? The Times does not appear in the afternoon, nor the London Evening Standard over breakfast, just because a holiday has been declared.

Alas, The Mad Scheduler does not stop there. He is also a junkie for repeats and specials, the usual fodder holiday times, devices that give the schedules the appearance of a madman dressed as a madman.

digest it as readily as we do. And yet, and yet... it should be said in mitigation that one special and one repeat worked triumphantly last night. Another special, a disastrously limp *The Vicar of Dibley*, stained the hour like a neglected Easter egg trodden on by children.

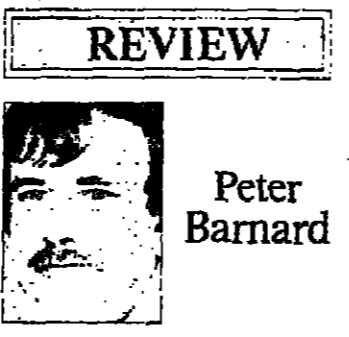
The good special and the good repeat were back to back on BBC2. First came *Attenborough in Paradise*, a special edition of *The Natural World*, in which Sir David went to New Guinea to find birds of paradise. Rory Bremner is one among several who have paid the mortgage by sending up *Attenborough's* breathless and reverent delivery but I eschew such frippery: I love the man.

Attenborough is a truly great broadcaster. The tedious facts of the "been there, done that" tendency may mock his enthusiasm but I celebrate it. He is completely at home in front of a television cam-

era, even if he is rarely at home when he is addressing it. Of his generation, only Sir David Frost can match *Attenborough's* extraordinary affinity with the medium.

Attenborough's pursuit of birds of paradise was, he said, a life's ambition. He had a go 40 years back, but on that occasion only found the bits of the birds being used as adumbrated and even currency by natives yet to receive any junk mail from environmentalists.

Now *Attenborough* far outclasses the bird. You find a thin line over a branch (the climbing) which had attached to it a climbing rope. At the other end of the rope was a weight, used as a counter balance. As the counter balance moved downwards so the other end of the rope moved upwards, with *Attenborough* attached to it. At the top, birds of paradise in every conceivable hue, a fabulous riot of greens, blues, whites, yellows. And that was just one of them. A single male in a given group of flock sounds too prosaic to have his way with all the females. The other males sat singing their protest: "You call this paradise? You call this paradise?"



Peter Barnard

Elsewhere in New Guinea, the social behaviour of these birds is as different as their plumage.

Lower down, food is plentiful so there is time for hanky-panky. On the high ground, 11,000 feet up, the birds only mate once because there is no time for polygamy: food is short, so both the female and the male have to hunt.

Urban moral: the closer you live to Sainsbury's, the more children you can have.

I thoroughly enjoyed *The Vicar of Dibley* (BBC1) when it was a proper series in which each episode lasted half an hour. Last night's "Easter special" was a loose piece of work stretched to 40 minutes. It showed. Thin jokes followed thin jokes. Dawn French was trying to give up chocolate for Easter. Unfortunately the writers, Paul Mayhew Archer and Richard Curtis, had given up wit.

I fear the dead hand of The Mad Scheduler again: "What was that rating? It was bad last year." Thing with Dawn French? Let's have one of those... only longer.

The usual cast was up to the usual high standard, but they were making bricks with the straw on ration.

Which leaves me no further excuse to delay trying to write about *Anne Frank Remembered* (BBC2). This was a repeat: it was rushed into the schedules because it won an Oscar recently. If that was an excuse, it was a very good one indeed.

Rarely have I been so moved. Rarely has documentary television, good as it can be, reached this level of meticulous excellence. From the interviews with those who knew Anne Frank, through the narration (by Kenneth Branagh) to the direction of Jon Blair, this is a stunning account of the Dutch teenager's contribution to our knowledge of the Holocaust.

Perhaps the central strength of the film lies off-screen, in its unflinching research, in its determination to find the people who

really knew what happened. They spoke with a shattering dignity and there were so many defining moments that none can define the whole.

This Easter weekend began with a news report of a grotesque folly: the Polish authorities had allowed right-wing extremists who deny the Holocaust to protest inside Auschwitz. The weekend ended, in *Anne Frank Remembered*, with a survivor from Bergen-Belsen telling how she saw Anne Frank's body dumped with a pile of others after she had died of typhus induced by cruel neglect.

The survivor recalled how she had scrambled among the bodies, trying to close the eyes of as many as she could. How sad that the victims of Hitler lay dead with their eyes open, while 50 years on, the fascist skinheads of Poland live with their eyes closed.

Matthew Bond is on holiday

- BBC**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (22606)
 - 6.00am Breakfast News (Ceefax) (53977)
 - 9.00am Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (704264)
 - 9.30am Don't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7275606)
 - 9.45am Killy. Topical discussion (1335199)
 - 10.30am Good Morning (s) (36731)
 - 12.00pm News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (583809)
 - 12.05pm Room for Improvement (581819)
 - 12.30pm Going for Gold (s) (3967557)
 - 1.00pm O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (58064)
 - 1.30pm Regional News (9460354) 1.40pm Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (4471818)
 - 2.00pm FILM: Diagnosis of Murder (1991) starring Dick van Dyke. When his friend is framed for murder, a doctor tries to clear his name. Directed by Barry Steinberg (Ceefax) (s) (33373)
 - 3.30pm Playdays (s) (1840712) 3.50pm Bodger and Badger (s) (774289) 4.10pm Alvin and the Chipmunks (7803147) 4.15pm Dennis the Menace (Ceefax) (s) (2047199) 4.30pm Out of Tune (Ceefax) (s) (9648809) 5.00pm Newsround (Ceefax) (1142480) 5.10pm The Lowdown (Ceefax) (1348084)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (408460)
 - 6.00pm Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) (644)
 - 6.30pm Regional News Magazine (906)
 - 7.00pm Holiday. Includes reports from Japan, Scotland, Germany and the Greek island of Lefkas (Ceefax) (s) (4083)
 - 7.30pm EastEnders. Pauline tells Mark the truth about her prison visits; Sarah brings bad news for Tiffany (Ceefax) (s) (880)
 - 8.00pm Great Ormond Street. Tonight two private patients are treated: baby Fatima, who has been flown to Britain by the Ormani Government for heart surgery, and eight-year-old Bradley who needs plastic surgery (Ceefax) (3731)
 - 8.30pm The Brittas Empire. Comedy of errors with the pediatric laundrette manager played by Chris Barrie (Ceefax) (s) (9538)
 - 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (581707)
 - 9.30pm Men Behaving Badly. Infidelity. Gary suspects Dorothy of having an affair (s) (Ceefax) (s) (61809)
 - 10.00pm Cardiac Arrest: Open and Shut. Realistic hospital drama series (Ceefax) (s) (47731)
 - 10.30pm They Think It's All Over. Comedian Nick Hancock compares the game of wit and sporting knowledge (Ceefax) (s) (835441)
 - 11.05pm FILM: Weirdest (1985) starring Anthony Michael Hall, Ian Mitchell-Smith and Kelly LeBrock. Fantasy comedy. Two adolescent computer buffs create their dream woman in an experiment involving a computer, a doll and the centroid from a pin-up magazine. Directed by John Hughes (Ceefax) (s) (873731)
 - 12.35pm FILM: Modern Love (1990) starring Burt Reynolds, Robby Benson and Karla DeVito. A newly-married couple reconcile their dreams with bizarre reality. Directed by Robby Benson (583800)
 - 2.15pm Weather (581707)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Open University: Lifestyles, Work and the Family (7084147) 6.50pm Developing World (8882731)
 - 7.15pm See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax) (495634)
 - 7.30pm Christopher Crocodile (s) (7582422)
 - 7.35pm Puddingland Pass (s) (7591793)
 - 7.40pm Oldie Dokie (s) (7512388) 7.50pm Peter Pan and the Pirates (s) (Ceefax) (s) (4929083) 8.15pm Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (Ceefax) (7074977) 8.35pm The Legend of Prince Valiant (Ceefax) (s) (1201101)
 - 9.05pm Mighty Max (s) (7049567) 9.25pm F.O.T. (Ceefax) (7499977) 10.00pm Playdays (s) (s) (6030318) 10.25pm Star Trek (s) (4325712) 10.50pm The Tick (s) (1283064) 11.10pm Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) (s) (8961808)
 - 12.00pm See Hear! (s) (44644) 12.30pm Working Lunch (72915) 1.00pm Puddingland Pass (s) (16700422) 1.05pm Oldie Dokie (s) (s) (4293033)
 - 1.15pm The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures (25) (s) (s) (906373)
 - 2.15pm The Andrew Neil Show (s) (7575151)
 - 3.00pm News (Ceefax) and weather (7903354)
 - 3.05pm The Natural World (s) (7993489)
 - 3.55pm News (Ceefax) and weather (2130828)
 - 4.00pm Today's Day (s) (809 4.30pm Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (793)
 - 5.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (Ceefax) (s) (8584165)
 - 5.40pm The Ladies of the House. Teresa Gorman explains how she gets her points across to male MPs (888557)
 - 6.00pm Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (478151)
 - 6.25pm Heartbreak High (Ceefax) (s) (376170)
 - 7.10pm The Ren and Stimpy Show (Ceefax) (s) (959367)
 - 7.30pm A Technophobe's Guide to the Future. A series looking at the type of technology that is now shaping people's lives (s) (422)

- CHOICE**
- An Obsession with... Rabbits (BBC2, 8.00pm) Nicholas Southgate's film interviews nine people involved in one way or another with rabbits and seldom has half an hour passed so quickly. You would not think that one species could spark such a diversity of opinion, and interest. Rabbit lovers will want to Patricia Tike, who looks after 33 of the creatures at her home and reckons they have a healing influence. Eileen Early uses rabbit fur to knit jumpers, and is forthright about the creature's sexual habits. A show competitor vacuum cleans her animal to ensure it is in pristine condition. The zoologist who has been observing rabbit behaviour for 12 years has taken DNA fingerprints of her entire colony. For the rest, however, the rabbit is there either to be used (in asthma research) or killed.
 - Without Walls (Channel 4, 9.00pm and 9.30pm) Nabil Shaban, the disabled actor, launches a lively attack on the treatment of disability in the cinema. His arguments are persuasive. Disability is often coupled with evil (look at the disgraced villains in the Bond films), disabled actors rarely get the big roles and disabled heroes, such as Douglas Bader or Christy Brown of *My Left Foot*, are played by the able-bodied. Shaban also points to a succession of films in which blind women are voyeuristically menaced by sinister killers. The deaf brother in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, who is both played by a deaf actor and moves the plot along, is seen as a welcome anomaly. In the other half of the show, *Without Walls* also salutes *The Professionals*, though whether this 1970s series is a classic or a piece of mindless thugger, sexist and racist into the bargain, will be a matter for debate.
 - Straight from the Heart: Forbidden Love (BBC2, 9.45pm) In 1940, when the Germans occupied the Channel Islands, Dolly was a lonely young woman living in Guernsey. She fell in love with a German sailor. To her Willi was a person and not an enemy, but with a war on such relationships had to be conducted in secret. The couple had a child, were married after the war and are still together 50 years later. But they cannot go back to Guernsey. Dolly and Willi recall their story in the direct, unvarnished and honest style that has been the hallmark of this series. Two other couples tell of falling in love across political and social divides. Harry, a Protestant, met Chris, a Roman Catholic, while he was in the Army in Ulster. They married but prejudice forced them to live in England. Mark talks about his gay partner from Brazil and how their relationship fell foul of British immigration law.

- CHOICE**
- 8.00am GMTV (5503860)
 - 9.25pm Win, Lose or Draw (s) (7263825)
 - 9.55pm Regional News (Ceefax) (6007064)
 - 10.00pm Batman (s) (6017441)
 - 10.25pm Disney Cartoon (s) (5243267)
 - 10.45pm FILM: Cheetah (1989) Disney film: set in Kenya, about a family who adopt an orphaned cheetah (873-9584)
 - 12.20pm HTV News and weather (Teletext) (6027793)
 - 12.30pm News and weather (Teletext) (8863354)
 - 12.55pm Murder, She Wrote (s) (7905151) 2.00pm Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (5459088) 2.25pm Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (5491915) 2.50pm Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (4135488)
 - 3.20pm News (Teletext) (7910644) 3.25pm Regional News (Teletext) (7919915)
 - 3.30pm The Magic House (s) (8055199) 3.40pm Tots TV (s) (7863170) 3.50pm Sooty and Co (s) (s) (1846996) 4.15pm Animaniacs (s) (s) (2031538) 4.40pm Island (Teletext) (5536489)
 - 5.10pm Yan Can Cook (5571806)
 - 5.40pm News and weather (Teletext) (825083)
 - 6.00pm Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (s) (79277)
 - 6.25pm HTV News (Teletext) (663118)
 - 7.00pm Emmerdale. A Glover is rushed to hospital (Teletext) (s) (9151)
 - 7.30pm West Eye View. Investigative current affairs (Teletext) (248)

- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55pm Emmerdale (5861373)
 - 1.25pm Chain Letters (79394809)
 - 1.55pm Home and Away (68494064)
 - 2.25pm Vanessa (54800267)
 - 2.55pm A Country Practice (1315624)
 - 5.10pm Home and Away (5571806)
 - 6.00pm Westcountry Live (77480)
 - 7.30pm Check It Out (248)
- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55pm Home and Away (3961373)
 - 1.25pm Chain Letters (79394809)
 - 1.55pm A Country Practice (44782793)
 - 2.25pm Vanessa (54801996)
 - 2.50pm Rustie's Real Cooks (4155489)
 - 5.10pm Shortland Street (5571806)
 - 6.25pm Central News and Weather (663118)
 - 7.30pm Heart of the Country (248)
 - 11.40pm Film: Daughter of Darkness (790335)
 - 1.25pm Football Extra (4506584)
 - 2.10pm Late & Loud (7986855)
 - 3.10pm The Babylon (9557331)
 - 3.45pm Funnies Business (8184786)
 - 4.10pm Joffinder (8621565)
 - 5.20pm Asian Eye (1217942)

- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55pm-1.25pm Chain Letters (3961373)
 - 1.25pm Home and Away (79394809)
 - 1.55pm Shortland Street (44782793)
 - 2.20pm Vanessa (54801996)
 - 2.50pm A Tale of Four Sea Ports (4155489)
 - 5.10pm Home and Away (5571806)
 - 5.37pm-5.40pm Three Minutes - Making It Happen (117538)
 - 6.00pm Meridian Tonight (712)
 - 6.30pm-7.00pm Michael Barry's Undiscovered Cooks (444)
 - 7.30pm-8.00pm Serve You Right Live (248)
 - 5.00pm Freescreen (37590)
- SAC**
- Starts: 6.30pm Fifteen to One (41644) 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (79915) 9.00pm Saved by the Bell: The College Years (22248) 9.30pm New Gamesmaster (6657557) 9.55pm California Dreams (6664354) 10.20pm Mark and Mindy (6026199) 10.50pm The Adventures of Tintin (1202712) 11.15pm The Pink Panther Show (5737809) 11.40pm Extreme (5908606) 12.30pm Madeline (67833) 1.00pm Slot Meltdown (7202)
 - 1.30pm Keepers of the Mean (665757) 2.30pm Traveling Ticks (65) 3.00pm Food File (5712)
 - 3.30pm Cazzane Private View (170) 4.00pm Jimmy's (977) 4.30pm My Generation (489) 5.00pm Pump: Used 5 (7557) 5.30pm Fifteen to One (441) 6.00pm Newsworld (861847) 6.15pm Heno (372354) 7.00pm Pabot V. Cwm (789197) 7.25pm Tini Tini (541328) 8.00pm Dawn Rivers (Ar Frys) (6441) 8.30pm Newsworld (2249) 9.00pm The Beat Goes On (1547) 10.00pm Brookside (30441) 10.30pm Supercrips and Rejects (54549) 11.00pm CAD: The Professionals (3460) 11.30pm Father Ted (21880) 12.00pm Film: December Bride (115229)

- 8.30am Fifteen to One** (s) (Teletext) (s) (41644)
- 7.00pm The Big Breakfast** (79915)
- 9.00pm Saved by the Bell: The College Years** (s) (22248)
- 9.30pm New Gamesmaster** (s) (6657557) **9.55pm California Dreams** (s) (6664354) **10.20pm Mark and Mindy** (s) (6026199)
- 10.50pm Tintin** (s) (1202712) **11.15pm The Pink Panther** (s) (5737809)
- 11.40pm Extreme** (s) (5908606)
- 12.30pm Sesame Street** (s) (68283) **1.30pm Ovide** (68417915)
- 1.55pm A La Swing** (b/w) A musical short with Eddie Foy Jr and the Mullen Sisters. Directed by Roy Mack (44780335)
- 2.20pm FILM: Footsteps in the Fog** (1955) with Stewart Granger and Joan Simmons. A thriller, set in Edwardian London, about a mad who blackmails her employer after he kills his wife. Directed by Arthur Lubin (938567)
- 4.00pm Jimmy's** (s) (Teletext) (s) (977) **4.30pm Fifteen to One** (Teletext) (s) (489) **5.00pm The Montel Williams Show** (Teletext) (s) (7588712) **5.30pm Terrytoons** (110625)
- 6.00pm The Avengers** (s) (Teletext) (75002)
- 7.00pm Channel 4 News** (781373)
- 7.55pm The Slot** (42016)
- 8.00pm Motormania**. The last of the series on motoring looks at the progress, or lack of it, in easing congestion on the roads (Teletext) (s) (6441)
- 8.30pm Brookside**. Ron realises it is time for action and Mo discovers the truth about Rosie (Teletext) (s) (2248)



Actor Nabil Shaban (9.00pm)

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**
- SKY ONE**
- 7.00pm Under (5879) 9.00pm Press Your Luck (5879) 9.30pm Live Connection (96135) 9.45pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (115555) 10.00pm Jeopardy! (227754) 10.10pm Saturday Night Takeaway (145225) 10.20pm Jeopardy! 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Big fraud trials to resume at Bailey

By ROBERT MILLER
AND JON ASHWORTH

MAJOR fraud trials are set to return to the Old Bailey early in June. Courtroom 12 in the Central Criminal Court is undergoing extensive refurbishment before the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) brings its first prosecution in what it hopes will become the home for future fraud trials.

The SFO case involves allegations of fraud and false accounting against Abbas Gokal, chairman of the Gulf Group, and stems from the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. One charge mentions \$1.2 billion, the largest single sum ever used in an indictment against an individual.

The Court Service, which agreed to help the SFO by setting aside a special courtroom, is installing 21-inch television screens for each pair of jurors. This is expected to help in the increasing number of SFO cases in which evidence is given by witnesses overseas. The court will also have a proper witness box. Unlike Chichester Rents, in Chancery Lane, host to the Maxwell, George Walker and other "black-buster" trials, Court 12 will have separate entrances for witnesses, defendants and spectators.

Chris Dickson, senior assistant director of the SFO, said: "The move to Court 12 in the Old Bailey restores the proper formality and dignity to these trials. It is right that cases of this seriousness are heard at the Old Bailey itself."

The move coincides with the most radical reforms by the SFO since its formation eight years ago. The SFO has been reorganised into five multi-disciplinary teams liaising with police forces. The reforms are intended to increase flexibility and responsiveness.

Dented image, page 34

Dow dives on fears of rising inflation

By RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK AND JANET BUSH

WALL STREET share prices plunged yesterday in a delayed reaction to Friday's slump in the American bond market on fears of rising inflation and interest rates.

By midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was 138.73 points lower at 5,544.15, a drop of 2.44 per cent. Treasury bonds were off another full percentage point after dropping by about two points on news that the American economy created another 140,000 jobs in the non-farm sector in March, more than double what economists had been expecting.

At mid-session yesterday, the yield on the Treasury's benchmark long bond had risen to 6.93 per cent from 6.83 per cent on Friday.

The stock market was shut for Good Friday, leaving yesterday as the first opportunity for shares to react to the fallout in the bond market on fears that the US Federal Reserve will not cut American interest rates

again and that inflationary pressures may mount. The London market is expected to react — but perhaps not dramatically — when it opens today after the Easter break.

Stocks dropped the minute the opening bell sounded on the New York Stock Exchange. When the Dow registered a loss of 50 points, circuit breakers — introduced after the 1967 stock market crash — were triggered, preventing trading in stock index futures in an attempt to slow the selling.

Dealers said that the reaction to Friday's figures had been widely expected, that the mood was relaxed and that a rapid recovery was likely.

One trader said: "This was very scripted, very expected. It's as if the market has been there, done that, seen it all before. Most folks are complacent."

Many market operators compared the fall to the 171-point plunge a month ago that was also triggered by strong

employment figures. After that setback, share prices quickly recovered and marched to new highs. This experience is giving the market confidence during the current price fall.

But a growing number of analysts believe that the New York stock market is heading for a more serious setback this time. Michael Metz, equity strategist at Oppenheimer, the fund management group, said: "The underpinnings of the market are being shaken. Although a lot of people seem to think this is just another bargain-hunting opportunity, we are actually heading for a big correction of 10 per cent over the next few months."

David Schutman, market strategist at Salomon Brothers, said: "This is going to be messier than March. We're in a correction of at least 200 points on the Dow — maybe not immediately but over the next few weeks."

With US interest rates apparently at their lows and corporate profits sluggish, some analysts think the market is overvalued and the bargain hunters are on the wrong track. The Commerce Department said yesterday that profits of US manufacturing companies had weakened in the fourth quarter to 5.1 cents a dollar of sales from 5.8 cents in the third quarter.

Nervousness about Wall Street's reaction to Friday's bond sell-off and jobs figures badly hit Far Eastern markets overnight. On the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the 225-Nikkei share average closed down 271.60 points at 21,424.24, a loss of 1.25 per cent. There was also a knock-on effect on markets in Mexico, which are particularly sensitive to developments in the US. At mid-session, the stock market had fallen 1.55 per cent and the Mexican peso was sharply lower.

The dollar held quite steady in New York trading, having been battered overnight in the Far East. At midday, in New York, the dollar was quoted at DM1.4773, up from DM1.4750, but still well below Friday's level of DM1.4842.



Wall Street traders saw stocks plunge the minute the opening bell sounded

Boost for BAe as Airbus wins £1bn China deal

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE is on the verge of selling nearly £1 billion worth of aircraft in China, breaking Boeing's dominance in the world's biggest potential market and guaranteeing large-scale orders and jobs for British Aerospace.

Li Peng, the Chinese premier, will this week visit Airbus headquarters in Toulouse, southern France, placing orders and options on between 40 and 100 Airbus narrow-bodied A320s.

The dramatic switching of favours across the Atlantic is a product of China's displeasure at America's bellicose stance over Taiwan, dogged marketing by Airbus and some adroit muzzling of anti-Peking sentiment by Jacques Chirac, the French President.

"It's a major, major breakthrough for Airbus," said a company source in Hong Kong last night. "A clear message has been sent to the Americans that nothing can be taken for granted."

Industry analysts estimate that China will need at least 100 aircraft in the 150-seat category during the next five years. The

two rival products — the Airbus A320 and Boeing's revamped 737 family — are both in demand, and China must place orders now for aircraft to be delivered in 1998. BAe, which has a 25 per cent interest in Airbus, builds the wings for Airbus jets at Filton, near Bristol, and Chester.

The A320s will be distributed between China Southern, Air China and Sichuan airlines. The unit cost, with spare parts thrown in, is expected to be about \$30 million, a significant discount on the normal list price for an A320 of \$45 million.

Boeing has sold about 230 aircraft to China since President Nixon's historic rapprochement with Peking in 1972. McDonnell Douglas, whose planes are assembled from imported kits near Shanghai, has nearly 40 aircraft in service there, while Airbus has so far been able to sell just 35 jets to the Chinese.

"The fact is that the Chinese don't like to put all their eggs in one basket," said the Airbus source. "There is a feeling that it is now Airbus's turn; we've a lot of catching up to do."

Pilot run for work project

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

A CONTROVERSIAL new government training programme aimed at helping the long-term unemployed to find jobs begins in two trial areas today.

The Project Work scheme will be tested in Hull and Medway and Maidstone in Kent, providing 6,000 places over the next year for 18 to 50-year-olds who have been out of work for longer than two years.

But critics have attacked the scheme, saying that those who refuse to enter the programme could have their benefits scrapped.

Eric Forth, the Employment Secretary, denied the scheme was based on the US welfare programme. He said yesterday that he hoped no one would refuse a place on the programme, which involves 13 weeks of help in looking for a job followed by 13 weeks of

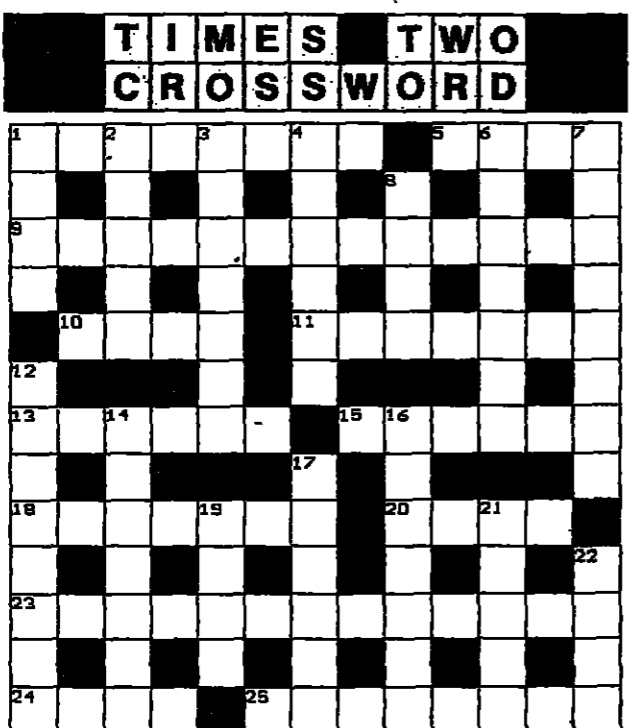
work experience. Mr Forth said: "We just don't think we can have people on benefit indefinitely... Most long-term unemployed want to work and will value the help this scheme gives."

He added: "Anyone who refuses to enter or drops off the work experience programme for no good reason will lose some or all of their benefits."

Mr Forth said that he hoped many people would find a job after the initial 13 weeks. Otherwise, they would be offered work experience, including community and environmental projects.

Ian McCartney, the Labour Party's employment spokesman, said: "This is merely the Government trying to give the impression they are doing something to tackle long-term unemployment."

Graham Searjeant, page 34



No 751

ACROSS

- 1 One asserting title (8)
- 5 Constituent of molecule (4)
- 9 Giving-way stage (8,5)
- 10 Part of leg; climb rapidly up (4)
- 11 Whole number (7)
- 13 With husky voice (6)
- 15 Desire for drink (6)
- 18 Squirrel away (7)
- 20 African republic (4); (meal) for taking away (2,2)
- 23 Allowing error margin (2,3,4,4)
- 24 Meat-in-tortilla dish (4)
- 25 Restrain in car (4,4)

DOWN

- 1 Dice shape (4)
- 2 First Hebrew letter (5)
- 3 Essential ingredients (7)
- 4 Holy See diplomat (6)
- 6 Firing lever (7)
- 7 Ripeness (8)
- 8 Catch sight of; tiny mark (4)
- 12 Slowly remove (from use) (5,3)
- 14 Self-denying (7)
- 16 Stressful position (3,4)
- 17 Lower value, adulterate (6)
- 19 A garden; a PM (4)
- 21 Tour leader (5)
- 22 Inclination; inclined (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 750

ACROSS: 1 Atrocious 5 Feet 8 Go places 9 Peter 11 Lie in 12 Trudice 13 Regime 15 Regent 18 Chucker 19 Optic 21 Ruby 22 Casapuli 23 Mien 24 Feckless

DOWN: 1 Angular 2 Rupee 3 Chain-smoke 4 Twenty 6 Execute 7 Three 10 Take to task 14 Grumble 16 Tactless 17 Urbane 18 CD-ROM 20 Truce

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Lang leads UK's biggest trade mission to Japan

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THE largest ever UK trade mission to Japan, headed by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, arrives in Tokyo today in a fresh effort to narrow Britain's trade gap.

During his four-day visit, Mr Lang will visit the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to seek more action by Japan to open its domestic markets. He is likely to urge Shunpei Tsukahara, his MITI counterpart, to continue deregulating the economy and remove a thicket of barriers to international competition.

Japanese business leaders, who admire Britain's expertise in deregulation, have invited Mr Lang to talk about the

British experience in this field. In the past year Japan's Government has taken some cautious steps to reduce red tape and improve transparency.

While Mr Lang pursues commercial diplomacy, 135 British businessmen, including senior executives from British Aerospace, Boots and Manchester Airport will establish if the Japanese market has become any easier to crack.

Included in the mission is a 20-strong contingent of garden equipment firms hoping to tap into Japan's expanding market. "The fact that most Japanese don't have gardens, or only a postage stamp, doesn't matter," a British Embassy

official said. "They want to have all the right gear."

The embassy spies rich pickings in the growing leisure market. A nation of workaholics is at last taking more time off. British sales of luxuries like golf clubs and yachts have fallen victim to the stagnant economy, but firms catering to humbler pastimes are discovering a profitable niche.

Japan's growing taste for foreign goods, stimulated by the strong yen, boosted British exports last year by 27 per cent to £3.8 billion. Japanese exports to Britain rose 9 per cent to £9.7 billion. British car sales are rising sharply, but whisky sales have been hit by Japan's discriminatory liquor taxes.

Labour leader seeks to win over business world

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

TONY BLAIR is set to launch a bid for the hearts and minds of American investors in a series of meetings and lunches on Wall Street during his visit to the US which starts tomorrow.

One of his first engagements is a meeting at Lazard Frères, the investment bank, with senior US financial figures in which Mr Blair will explain Labour's attitudes towards inward investment and markets. He will have to clarify his vision of stakeholder capitalism to men more accustomed to red-blooded competitive capitalism.

On Thursday he will give a speech titled "Labour's approach to the new global economy" at a lunch hosted by the British American Chamber of Commerce.



Blair: working lunches

Among the 550 guests will be representatives from most of the leading US and UK banks, investment houses and accounting firms.

The lunch will follow a breakfast in Mr Blair's honour at which Henry Kissinger is the main speaker. Mr Blair

has a considerable task ahead of him because most US bankers and businessmen view him and his revamped Labour Party as an unknown quantity. Unlike Labour leaders of a few years ago, however, Mr Blair is not viewed with suspicion or hostility on Wall Street so much as a puzzle.

"People tend to think he is a better technocrat than John Major, but no one thinks he would be radically different," one Wall Street analyst said. "I don't know what the new Labour means," said another.

"It's obvious that Blair would not mean a swing to a radical left government." Mr Blair is likely to want to allay the concern that traditionally causes ructions in the currency markets when Labour wins an election and will promise not to reverse the biggest Tory changes.

Shake-up in electrical retailing predicted

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S electrical retailing sector has emerged as one of the fastest growing areas of consumer spending but margins are set to come under further pressure and another round of restructuring is on the way, according to a report published today by Verdict, the retail consultant.

The report is published as potential buyers consider making an offer for the electrical retailing business of Norweb, the regional electricity company. Verdict expects Norweb to attract widespread interest and believes the two companies that would find it most valuable would be Comet, the Kingfisher subsidiary, and ScottishPower. Norweb has 2.5 per cent of the electrical retail market, about half of Comet's share of 5.4 per cent and dwarfed by Dixons Group's 16.7 per cent.

The report says: "If Comet were to acquire Norweb, its number two position in the market would be consolidated. If ScottishPower won a battle, it would become number two and put a serious dent in Kingfisher's ambitions in the electricals market."

The proposed sale of the Norweb business leaves the field open for Dixons to launch a determined price campaign. Verdict said that it is not clear why Dixons had not already used its advantage to lower prices and deal a knockout blow to weaker competitors.

Verdict also expects further large-scale closures of high street outlets and that already water-thin margins will be squeezed further. However, Verdict expects demand for white goods to improve as the tax increases, rising interest rates and falling house prices of last year are reversed during 1996.

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